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CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The bare walls of the Hut remind students that the upcoming renovations in Gilman Hall will soon force them to seek 'round-the-clock study space elsewhere on campus.

MSE to replace Hut as all-night study location

By JESSIE YOUNG
News-Letter Staff Writer

Bleary-eyed Hopkins students will soon have to find a new place for late-night studying as a result of Gilman Hall renovations.

One of the changes that will most directly affect students

is the closing of the Hut after spring semester finals. While the Hut traditionally closes on this day, this time it won't just be for months — it will be for years.

A committee composed of student and library representatives has plans for a new round-the-clock study place: the M-Level of

the library. "MSE Library will be open continuously for 24 hours starting in the fall semester," said Ellen Keith, coordinator of Reference Services at the MSE Library. "We'll deal with the increased numbers in MSEL somehow when we get them."

According to Deborah Slinn, associate director for Library Services and Collections at the Sheridan Libraries, "undergraduates consider the need for 24/7 space a given."

The current proposal for providing 24/7 space is to open

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"We were looking for a speaker who had a background in a subject that is prominent at Hopkins. Bill Nye was a mechanical engineer at Boeing, and he's also a scientist. We were looking for someone that was not divisive, who everyone liked, and no one dislikes him. We were looking for someone who had a connection to the school, and both Bill Nye's father and grandfather are alumni. We were also looking for someone who was an academic; he was a professor at Cornell," said Zachary Moor, 2008 class council member.

After Nye's well-received speech, the class council approached the idea of asking him to speak.

"It seemed like very few seniors actually showed up to the symposium, and a lot of them expressed to us that they were really sad that they missed him. We approached him with a lot of recommendations from our peers," said Natasha Singh, president of the 2008 class council.

Other candidates for Commencement speaker included Michael Bloomberg, Nancy Pelosi, Thomas Friedman, Queen Noor and Kofi Annan. Annan and others were unavailable due to prior commitments during the date set for the speech. Bill Nye was the first and only candidate to be available and finalized by the administration.

"I assume student council capitalized on the success of this event, and decided to invite Mr. Nye to Commencement. With that being said, I guess you could say MSE is responsible for bringing Mr. Nye to Commencement," said Jon Bernhardt, MSE Symposium programming chair.

The *News-Letter* had reported that the graduation speaker would be announced in the middle of December; the council's decision was e-mailed to the senior class the first week of January. Members of Student Council defended the timing of the

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Group of StuCo members seeks approval of new constitution



By KENSING NG
News-Letter Staff Writer

For almost five years the constitution has been a veritable stumbling block to the Student Council, doing more damage than help.

Even the president of Student Council, senior Scott Bierbryer, admitted that the Constitution is ineffective.

"We don't really follow it very well," he said.

"There was a tradition of not following it among previous classes and there were some parts that we couldn't follow even if we wanted to," Bierbryer added.

Last year the executive

board toyed with the idea of fixing the constitution, but there were no results.

Finally, over Intersession, sophomore Evan Lazerowitz, junior Kate Jacob, senior Zachary Moor, freshman Daniel Teran, junior Austin Nelson and Bierbryer decided that it was time for StuCo to make a change.

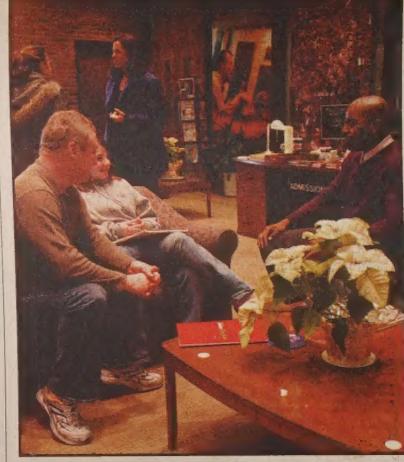
The six student council members drafted a new constitution suggesting several

significant changes to student council, even changing the name from student council to Student Government Association (SGA).

"It's probably less high-school-ish," Lazerowitz said.

If the constitution is adopted and implemented, these students hope that the newly christened Student Government Association (SGA) will be much more

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COURTESY OF JUSTINE MINK

Freshmen use Intersession to learn more about their role as community members in Baltimore.

MPAA overstated student download impact

By MAX MCKENNA
News & Features Editor

The damage done to the movie industry by illegal downloading on college campuses is not as high as previously reported, according to the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA).

The MPAA recently determined that a 2005 study conducted by LEK, a consulting firm hired by the MPAA, yielded "inflated numbers" for digital piracy by college students.

The MPAA stated that number is in fact 15 percent, which amounts to approximately a quarter of a billion dollars.

This information comes two weeks before the House of Representatives votes on the College

investigate the root cause of this problem as well as to substantiate the accuracy of the latest report," Executive Vice President of Corporate Communications for the MPAA Seth Oster said in a Jan. 22 press release.

According to the original study, 44 percent of the motion picture industry's domestic losses were attributable to piracy by college students.

The MPAA stated that number is in fact 15 percent, which amounts to approximately a quarter of a billion dollars.

This information comes two weeks before the House of Representatives votes on the College

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Birth control use at JHU down after price rises

By STEPHANIE DELMAN
For The News-Letter

While college students have become accustomed to paying exaggerated prices for textbooks, groceries and living expenses, female students used to be thankful for one cheap necessity: birth control.

Until recently, drug companies sold birth control pills and other contraceptives to university health centers at highly discounted prices, allowing students to get cheap and confidential birth control, while allowing universities to pocket the mark-up.

This situation ended

in 2005, with the passage of the Deficit Reduction Act. The legislation included a provision that prevents drug manufacturers from providing

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CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
High birth control prices may force Hopkins students to seek other birth control options.

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While many students were slowly gearing up for spring term, a group of freshmen immersed themselves in a new course about the complex city that they have called home since the fall.

Entitled "B-More: A Common Freshman Experience," the program served as a one-week orientation for 55 freshmen, allowing them to see and learn about many parts of Baltimore City and its history.

"Going to school in this city has advantages. I think sometimes people see negatives instead of looking for positives," Dean of Undergraduate Education Paula Burger said.

Burger envisioned the B-More program a year ago as a class bonding experience where freshmen would have a second wave of orientation while learning about the city. "I wanted to key in on it being a unique freshman experience," she said.

The B-More course spanned the last week of Intersession. Five classes dealing with different aspects of Baltimore were offered, each for a single pass-fail credit.

Classes and activities focused on Baltimore's vibrant history and culture but did not avoid discussing the city's problems. Topics ranged from health care and politics to the city's extensive

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Number of early decision applicants rises

Rate of acceptance decreases from last year; one-third of 2012 class has already been filled

By HEATHER BARBAKOFF
News & Features Editor

The number of early decision applicants for the class of 2012 increased by six percent while rates of acceptance went down, according to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

Hopkins evaluated 1,055 early admission applicants, an increase from the current freshmen class, which had 997. Out of these applicants, 439 were admitted—an acceptance rate of 41 percent.

"We could have taken 50 percent of the freshman class [with early decision applicants], but we didn't want to," said William Conley, dean of enrollment and academic services.

Associate Director of Admissions and Alumni Relations Amy Brokl said the University wanted to "have a more equitable distribution between our early decision and regular decision applicants."

The total for all freshman class applicants—both early and regular decision—is expected to reach a record high for Hopkins at 16,000. Hopkins will accept 1,200 total students into the 2012 class.

The University still sees early decision as beneficial, allowing the most dedicated potential candidates the opportunity to come to this institution, Brokl said.

"We really like the balance we have. We really like having one out of three freshmen saying 'this is my first choice.' It's a good thing," Conley said.

According to Conley, around 35 percent of those students admitted by early decision will be receiving Hopkins-based grants. The average grant will be \$25,000.

Aid is determined based on student use of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA) form and will not have to be repaid.

It is estimated that this year's applicant pool requires less aid



CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Admissions workers dealt with an increased number of early decision applicants.

than the class of 2011. The total amount available for grants varies yearly due to fluctuating costs and the individual applicants' needs.

The availability of financial aid for early decision applicants remains a cornerstone in the ongoing debate about the need for early decision.

Proponents of eradicating early decision argue that the lack of an opportunity to compare financial aid packages is a disadvantage to certain students.

"When a student asks about financial aid, I tell them if you wish to compare packages, early decision is not for you," Conley said.

"They will be applicable for the same regular decision financial aid packages [as non-early applicants]."

The accepted early decision class is very close to an even gender division. The current University under-class gender ratio is 53 percent male to 47 percent female.

Underrepresented minorities compose 10 percent of the early decision applicants. The Asian student population is not includ-

ed in the statistics.

Maryland remains the most represented state, with 16 percent of accepted early decision applicants coming from the state. The other highly represented states include New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and California.

The average SAT score for 2012 was higher than that of the previous, whose middle 50th percentile scored between 1350 and 1540.

Admissions looks to divide regular decision applicants so as to accept approximately one-third from those planning to enroll in the Whiting School of Engineering and the remaining two-thirds into the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences. Early decision acceptances mirror this distribution pattern.

With regular decision acceptances expected to be sent out by post and e-mail no later than April 1, the admissions counselors are reading submitted applications.

"We're anticipating a really strong regular decision class," Brokl said. "It's seeing people who are paper applications come to life [that] is just so interesting for us."

Company supplied Univ. with faulty cement

By JAMES ZHE
News-Letter Staff Writer

The University will not take legal action against the company that supplied building contractors with faulty cement during the construction of Charles Commons, according to officials.

"There is no question at all" concerning the safety and quality of Charles Commons, Dennis O'Shea, University Spokesman, said.

During the earlier phase of the Charles Commons project, cement and chemical products manufacturer Essroc Italcementi Group was the main supplier of cement to Metro Ready Mix Inc., the now-defunct university-approved building contractor.

However, it was quickly discovered that certain cement defects persisted, and Essroc was soon replaced by another cement supplier.

University officials insisted that they had promptly taken the necessary precautions and investigations to guarantee the quality of cement.

Charles Commons is a safe structure. Students should not be concerned. The issues with concrete poured at a very early point in the project were detected in the quality control process, as they should have been.

The contractor gave the concrete supplier an opportunity to correct the problem. Eventually, the concrete supplier was removed, and a new supplier was brought in for the rest of the project," O'Shea said.

Furthermore, the university took immediate remedial action to fix the cement pours that were previously problematic.

The university also brought in a structural engineer to "retest" and "certify" the concrete after it met the required strength levels.

In December 2007, the jury at the United States District decided Essroc should take full responsibility for its sub-standard cement, which ultimately caused the bankruptcy of Metro

Ready Mix.

Essroc was also required to make \$1.7 million in compensation to the Baltimore-based contractor.

At the moment, the University has no plans to take legal action against Essroc.

Stephen Dunham, director of the office of general counsel at Hopkins, declined to comment.

Officials at Metro Ready Mix Inc. announced huge losses at their previous Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center project because the concrete turned out to be so weak that it needed to be ripped off and removed completely.

Company officials at Metro Ready Mix blamed these problems on the sub-standard cement provided by Essroc.

After the incident at Bayview, the fragile Metro Ready Mix Inc sustained further losses as they had lost rights to several multi-million dollar contracts because of damaged reputation at Bayview.

As a result of the court verdict in December 2007, Essroc will take full responsibility for causing the losses of Metro Ready Mix Inc., including the losses at the Johns Hopkins Bayview project.

Officials at Bayview were unavailable for comment.

Cement is one of the most vital ingredients in the making of concrete. It that glues together the rock or gravel with the sand, water, and other additives.

Concrete can also have varying strengths, depending on the quality of the cement and other materials used.

The concrete used in building bridges, highways, and high-rises is stronger and made with

higher-quality cement than the materials used in sidewalks and garage-driveways.

According to building contractor Metro Ready Mix Inc's claim in the month long civil case, Essroc falsely supplied them with weaker, substandard cement that may induce serious safety hazards in a large-scale structure.

According to the company website, Essroc Italcementi Group is a "leading manufacturer of cement and chemical mixtures serving North America...and driven to deliver superior value by providing quality and innovative products and services, and being a long-time business partner."

The company also featured a list of its "premier projects," including the D.C. Major League Ball Park, the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, and the Toronto General Hospital.

Meanwhile, in the brightly-lit halls of Charles Commons, student residents generally seem to be content about the conditions in the dormitory.

When asked about their opinion on the recent court verdict on Essroc's substandard cement, most are not aware and are not concerned about the situation.

"I mean, it's not like my room is constantly sinking," Hopkins senior Sarah H. said.



FILE PHOTO
Contractors re-poured concrete during the construction of the Charles Commons following discovery of faulty cement.



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Chipotle

MEXICAN GRILL

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Freshmen experience the city with B'more class

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Egyptian art collection.

"The idea was to take this class and give [freshmen] a common experience, become engaged in the Hopkins experience and hopefully in the Baltimore community," said Associate Dean of Student Life Ralph Johnson, who served as coordinator of the B'More program.

Administrators were concerned that students at Hopkins were not getting involved enough in the city of Baltimore until too late.

"Too often I talk with seniors who are just now starting to explore Baltimore," Dean of Student Life Susan Boswell said while addressing the B'More participants at the Fresh Food Café on Jan. 22.

The course started two days earlier, with opening ceremonies and icebreakers.

Martin Luther King Day was commemorated with a community service activity and keynote speaker Bishop Douglas Miles, pastor of Koinonia Baptist Church and Hopkins alumna.

Each day of the rest of the week began with classes from nine until noon.

After classes and lunch, students from all of the B'More classes would meet for afternoon activities that took them away from campus to explore the city. Many students found the bus tour of the city to be a highlight.

"I felt that the tour of Balti-



COURTESY OF LENA DENIS

Alicia Lee '11 reads information about a city landmark on one of the class's bus trips.

more City really combined with what we learned in class to help the students better understand the economic levels in Baltimore along with the history of Baltimore in general," freshman Alicia Lee said.

Humanities Center Professor Neil Hertz led the tour, narrating the history of Baltimore. He pointed out the parts of Baltimore that most Hopkins students have never seen, and spoke frankly about the city's problems.

Hertz showed the students the blocks of abandoned houses in East and West Baltimore. He mentioned the recent dispute involving neighborhoods in East Baltimore and construction of a Biotech Park near the medical school and

talked about many attempts to revitalize the city's old neighborhoods.

"I'm a junior and I just saw parts of Baltimore I never did before," said Justine Mink, who served as a student ambassador for the program.

Four upperclassmen served as liaisons between the freshmen and the program coordinators.

"I think the idea behind the program is phenomenal. It has a lot of potential, and the program is needed," Mink said.

"I think the students are very good. They have an analytical and interesting approach to things. I was positively surprised, because I'm used to teaching juniors and seniors," said B'More instructor Anaïd Citlalli Reyes-Kipp.

The graduate student taught a class called "Lives on The Wire: Anthropology, Inequity and Urban Life," which focused on Baltimore's urban development and how the city changed in the latter half of the twentieth century.

Reyes-Kipp liked the way the program was structured and placed great importance on black history, with visits to the Reginald Lewis Museum and the Great Blacks in Wax Museum.

"I thought it was a really good program. It helped open people's minds about Baltimore," freshman Jasmine Hope said.

Burger said that ultimately she would like to see the program expand to around 30 different classes and more than 900 freshmen.

Sponsored by the Office of the Dean of Student Life and the Office of Undergraduate Education, B'More was funded by discretionary money from Student Affairs and Burger's office, as well as the Intersession budget.

Contraceptive prices deter students

Recent legislation raising the prices of birth control has lowered total student use at Hopkins

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
ing birth control to health centers at discounted prices.

As a consequence, college health centers across the nation, including the one at Hopkins, were forced to raise their prices, prompting students to re-evaluate how much they are willing to spend on preventative measures.

According to Alan Joffe, director of the Student Health and Wellness Center, the negative effects of the price change have already been apparent.

"The price increase has made [birth control] much less affordable for students," he said.

According to Joffe, companies such as Ortho used to sell the Health and Wellness center pills for 8 to 10 dollars a pack, which they would mark up with a small administrative fee.

"Now we can't buy that stuff for 8 and 10 dollars anymore, and for students who don't want their parents to know that they're taking birth control, 20, 25, 30 dollars a pack can be prohibitive," he said.

Joffe said that the Student Health and Wellness Center is working hard to promote the message that birth control is still affordable and accessible, especially since the number of online birth control refills has dropped significantly — from 415 to 285 in the past year.

Many students are experiencing the detrimental effects of this legislation firsthand.

Stephanie Lin, freshman, said she was prepared to purchase birth control pills from the health center — before she heard their prices.

"I went to the health center to ask about prices and they were ridiculous, like \$22 per pack. My insurance wouldn't cover it without my parents finding out, so I just went off [the pill]."

Lin said that when she originally asked about the prices, she was told it was only \$18 for a pack of birth control pills.

"[The health center] gave me a price list. The list said it was \$18, so I went to the bank, but when I came back they told me it had been changed to \$22, which was just too expensive. The price keeps going up and I don't see how people can afford it," she said.

Like Lin, many students choose not to contact their insurance company for help, out of fear that their parents will find out. However, according to Joffe, this fear is unfounded.

"In reality, if you go to drug store, the insurance company doesn't send any notification to your parents, unlike if you go to a cardiologist for heart pain and the bill gets sent home," he said.

"As far as I know, that doesn't happen for prescription drugs — if you get contraceptives, it's supposed to be confidential. We tell students that's the case, and so [after the passage of the legislation] a lot of students have asked us to write prescriptions, he said.

However, many students either are not aware of the health center's policies on confidentiality and birth control distribution, or they simply don't trust them.

Joffe speculated that freshman and sophomores take some time to learn that they can trust the confidentiality offered by the Health and Wellness Center.

"I think that by the time students are juniors and seniors, either they've become comfortable enough to tell their parents they're on birth control, or their parents have just figured that their children are not living in the glass bubble anymore," Joffe said.

Joffe also emphasized the effort that the Center puts in to spreading the word on birth control.

"I purposefully participate in Sexcapades. We plant questions,

so that I get to say in front of everyone that we're free, we're confidential, and we don't tell your parents — we always wonder if the message is actually getting out," he said.

Joffe is by no means the only one trying to get the word out about affordable contraceptives. The American College Health Association has taken on the issue, lobbying Congress to reverse the harmful Deficit Reduction Act.

"We're doing what we've been doing for a year — trying to identify allies on Capitol Hill for an amendment. It's a difficult position, because some things that all of Congress agree on can end up on the President's desk and get vetoed. There's something to trip this up around every corner," said Mary Hoban, Project Director of the ACHA.

According to Hoban, college students can help in the fight to make birth control affordable once again.

"College students can let their legislators know about how it has affected them — the increase in price, the decrease in availability, the increase in pregnancies," Hoban said. "It's unfortunate, but sometimes those personal stories are what the legislators respond to."

According to sophomore Smriti Mohan, there is still a significant distrust in the health center amongst her peers.

"Most of my friends get their birth control at home," she said.

"A lot of people aren't aware that the health center sells birth control, or that they promise confidentiality."

The only way I learned about the health center's birth control policies was by talking with upperclassmen friends."

Jeremy Bremer, a freshman, echoed this sentiment.

"I don't even know what the health center's policies are," he said.

"They sell birth control?"

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Health care discussions fail to draw pres. candidates

By MARIE CUSHING
News & Features Editor

Former Gov. Mitt Romney (R-Mass.) is still the only high-polling presidential candidate to have appeared on the Hopkins-sponsored health care discussion series, "Healthcare '08: Search for Solutions," which began airing on Retirement Living Television (RLTV) on Jan. 14.

"We have not been able to get candidates other than Romney so far, but other people are quite interested in participating," said University President William Brody, who is involved with the health care discussion in each episode of the series.

"We're still after them, still in discussion with them," said Michael Field, an assistant to Brody who has helped coordinate the forums.

A forum with former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) will be filmed this Tuesday. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R-Calif.) has agreed to film, but a date has not yet been set.

Presidential candidates who have agreed to participate in the series include Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) and former Gov. Mike Huckabee (R-Ark.).

Dates have not been set for their participation, which Field attributed to a primary season he described as hectic and wide open.

Since the forums were made public, the reaction Field received has been positive.

"A lot of people commented that they were happy to hear people talk and explain health care in ways they understand because it is so complex," he said.

Brody felt the impact of the forums could not yet be measured. "Maybe in a month or so we will have a better reading on how the program has been perceived so far," he said.

"We're very excited to have another avenue for discussing this highly problematic system," said Joel Miller, senior vice president for Operations at the National Coalition on Health Care, an alliance of organizations with the goal of health care coverage for all.

Despite the forum's expansion beyond presidential candidates to include other health care policy makers, the series will continue to concentrate on seniors.

"I think because of sponsors the forums will always focus on seniors. The reality is that seniors consume a vast majority of health care," Field said.

RLTV bills itself as the foremost experts on aging and seniors. NCHC includes AARP, the largest membership organization for those over 50 in the country.

However NCHC also includes groups the Association of Ameri-



COURTESY OF WWW.08RACE.COM

Mitt Romney is the only major presidential candidate who has fulfilled his commitment to the forum.

can Universities, a coalition of colleges that Hopkins has been part since 1900.

"Even though seniors are always brought up specifically ... the bulk of the conversation is how to make medicine better, more cost-effective and widely available. These are across the board issues," Field said.

Miller did not think that broadcasting on RLTV exclusively would limit the series.

"We're not concerned at all. We believe this is an opportunity to reach millions," he said. "We are actively communicating to

our members through our Web site and other communication vehicles. They are in turn broadcasting this information to their employees, members and congregates."

"I think it's just the beginning. Hopefully we can grow our audience," Field said.

Recent forum participants included William Novelli, chief executive officer of AARP. John Erickson, head of Baltimore County-based Erickson Retirement Communities and creator of RLTV, discussed the private sector's role in health care reform.

A discussion with presidential candidate and former Senator Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) aired as the final part of this portion of the series.

"With Mike Gravel, I think it was clear from the beginning that he was not the nominee, but he had some important things to say," Field said.

"Obviously many candidates have dropped out, and we've discussed picking them up anyway."

Bill aims to slow illegal downloading at colleges

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campuses," Racusen said.

"Internet piracy is against the law, and other similar illegal behaviors that occur on college campuses, such as underage drinking, drug use and crimes are already addressed under the Higher Education Act."

The House Education and Labor Committee unanimously passed the bill, sponsored by Congressman George Miller (D-Calif.), in November.

"The MPAA commends Chairman Miller for taking this step to protect intellectual property on college campuses," said MPAA chairman and CEO Dan Glickman, in a Nov. 9 press release.

Glickman cited the erroneous statistics from the 2005 report as part of the reason for the MPAA's endorsement of the bill.

"I like a l

downloading

doesn't just hurt

the motion picture

and music

industries, but

it can also be

harmful to uni-

versities as it

puts their sys-

tems at risk for

security pur-

poses, takes up bandwidth

and slows systems

that are designed

for research and other educational purposes," Glickman said.

The amendment would provide universities with grant money to "develop, implement, operate, improve and disseminate programs of prevention, education, and cost-effective technological solutions, to reduce and eliminate the illegal downloading and distribution of intellectual property" on campuses.

Racusen cited an initiative by the Illinois State University as an example of the type of preventative programs the bill would fund. Illinois State hopes not only

to slow piracy by improving technological measures, but by changing the student body's attitude toward digital theft.

"Illegal downloading of music, videos, movies and games is a symptom. It is not the problem, nor is technology the answer," said Cheryl Elzy, dean of university libraries and a federal copyright agent at Illinois State.

Elzy hopes to teach students what she called "good Digital Citizen behaviors."

"The problem is changing behavior, almost changing a culture," she said.

"The voluntary grant program established under this bill would provide those schools that want to proactively explore innovative ways of stopping internet piracy with the resources to do so," Racusen said.

The U.S. Secretary of Education will ultimately determine how grants are awarded.

Despite the statistical error, Oster maintained that college students are "responsible for a disproportionate amount of stolen movie products in this country."

"We will continue to aggressively fight piracy on all fronts including working to forge alliances with other copyright organizations, deploying technologies that help combat piracy and working closely with governments around the world who recognize the importance of intellectual property to a strong economy," Oster said in the recent press release.

"Piracy remains a profound global problem that affects not only the motion picture industry, but consumers, the overall U.S. economy and American workers generally," he continued.

Bill Nye, Commencement speaker guy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

announcement, which comes at the start of the second semester of the 2007-2008 academic years.

"It's traditional for the seniors to start [making the decision] their senior year," said Kate Jacob, a 2009 class council member.

"We made it [the announcement] as soon as the negotiations were completely finalized. We didn't want to announce a speaker and take it back in case something fell through. I think the precedent has been that seniors find out either really early in second semester or in the December-January time frame," Singh said.

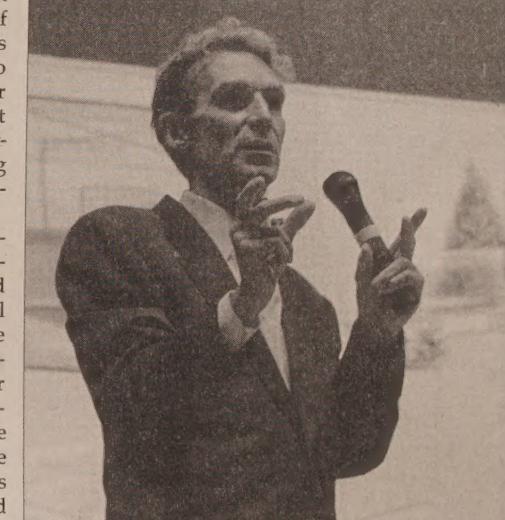
Although the speaker selection process has often been seen by students as mysterious, those involved were willing to speak about it.

"There are a lot of rumors always flying around about graduation speakers. There seems to be some weird mystery about how it happens. It is really up front about how the senior class picks their speaker. Sometimes they'll come to us and say do you know anyone who knows somebody. In this case they did it themselves. They asked Bill Nye," said India Lowres, Commencement coordinator.

The senior class council is responsible for gathering recommendations from its peers, and then compiling a list with those suggestions. After they have finalized their list, they have to decide amongst themselves who it is that they wish to invite. If for some reason the class council is unable to reach a decision or negotiate a speaker in a timely manner, the administration may try to step in and assist them.

"We weren't pushing for anybody, I promise," Lowres said.

Others insist that the selection process was not smooth, citing a lack of communication. There were



FILE PHOTO
Bill Nye spoke recently as part of the MSE Symposium.

Derrick Kuan said.

"We were stoked to get Bill Nye. We approached him directly afterwards and he told us about how his grandfather went to Hopkins and how he had all these connections to the community," Cheung said.

"I would have preferred Jacques Cousteau," senior Mawena Brathwaite said.

"I'm alright with him. I hope he is funny," senior Amanuel Alemu said.

It is not clear what Nye will be speaking about, although his previous message resonated strongly with students.

"It'll be totally up to him. I'm sure he hasn't even written a speech. This isn't like MSE where they had a theme. He might talk about Hopkins, the environment, Hollywood, I have no [expletive deleted] idea," Moor said.

This year's junior class council is also preparing to make their choice for a Commencement speaker.

"We don't have a speaker yet for our class, but we should know by the end of the semester. We are making efforts to start the process a year early," Jacob said.

SECURITY ALERTS

Jan. 21

A digital camera, several items of snack food and \$3 were removed from unlocked offices at 3003 N. Charles St., Suite 200. The investigation is continuing.

Jan. 22 at 6:15 p.m.

A Hopkins affiliate was approached by a man who claimed to have a gun and demanded the victim empty his pockets. The victim surrendered \$15, and the suspect then fled. Baltimore police apprehended the suspect a few blocks away. After a positive identification by the victim, the suspect was arrested and charged with unarmed robbery.

Jan. 24 between 3:15 and 3:30 p.m.

A male trailing a non-affiliate followed the victim into an alley and showed the victim a syringe and demanded money. The victim removed his property from his pockets and threw it on the ground and the suspect took a cell phone and fled. Fifteen minutes later, the suspect approached a retired JHMI employee and two friends, again displaying the syringe and demanding money. One of the victims fled and the suspect walked away. Campus officers located the suspect who was identified by the victims and arrested by Baltimore police.

Jan. 27 at 3:29 a.m.

A male was observed entering an outdoor area near the Homewood Apartments. Campus officers and off-duty Baltimore police working for JHU issued the man a trespass warning and told him to leave the area.

— Compiled by Hannah Diamond

CLASSIFIEDS

Spring Break 2008.
Sell Trips, Earn Cash & Go Free.
Call for Group Discounts, Best Deals
Guaranteed! Jamaica, Cancun,
Acapulco, Bahamas, S. Padre, Florida.
800-648-4849 or www.ststravel.com

ERRATA

In the Dec. 6 issue of the *News-Letter*, Tianyi Wang was not credited for the photo accompanying the article "Increase found in class sizes in certain dept." on Page A2.

The *News-Letter* regrets this error.

WSE VIDEO COMPETITION*

The Whiting School of Engineering is hosting its first-ever Video Competition, open to all full-time WSE and KSAS students. The deadline for submissions is Monday, February 25, 2008.

While students may choose from any genre they wish (music video, documentary, mystery, animation, etc.) topics must be selected from one of four themes:

- 1) It Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time
- 2) A Day in the Life
- 3) A New Discovery
- 4) How it Works

 Students (and teams of students) are invited to create 2-3 minute videos about engineering at JHU.

Over \$1,200 in cash prizes will be awarded and the best videos will be used to promote Hopkins Engineering online via JHU websites and YouTube. All video equipment can be borrowed from the Digital Media Center.

For complete information about the competition please visit engineering.jhu.edu/videocompetition08.

**WHITING
SCHOOL OF
ENGINEERING**

JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY



The Johns Hopkins University ORIENTATION 2008

The Johns Hopkins University Orientation program is inviting you to be a part of the 2008 program. Take the opportunity to welcome the Class of 2012.

Executive Staff applications available online at orientation.jhu.edu

Applications due February 18th.

Upperclass Living 2008-2009



Please join us for the

Upperclass Room Selection Information Session

Thursday, February 7th @ 4:00pm - Charles Commons Multipurpose Room

Get all the information you will need to decide about your living accommodations for the 2008-2009 academic year. We will be presenting information regarding university housing and off-campus housing in the surrounding communities. We will explain the details of the Upperclass Room Selection Process as well as the steps involved in obtaining a privately owned apartment within the community.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Coming up...

Keep an eye out for details about the annual Off-Campus Housing Fair on March 6th in the Glass Pavilion. You will be able to meet many area landlords and get information about their buildings.

New this year is a Off-Campus Housing Open House on Saturday, March 8th. Many of the larger apartment communities within walking distance to campus will offer tours and information about their buildings with refreshments and plenty of give-aways!

Friday, February 1st

Housing and Dining Information Booth

12:00noon - 2:00 pm - Gilman Breezeway

Thursday, February 7th

Upperclass Information Session

4:00pm - Charles Commons Multipurpose Room

Friday, February 8th @ 5:00pm to

Friday, February 15th

Upperclass Room Selection Registration

Visit yourspace.jhu.edu

to complete and submit your registration.

Deadline: February 15th @ 11:59pm

Thursday, February 21st

Upperclass Priority Number Notification

distributed by 5:00pm

Monday, February 25th

Off-Campus Housing Information Booth

11:00am- 1:30 pm - Levering

Wednesday, February 27th

Upperclass Contract Signing Session

Each group will be notified of the location and assigned a time to attend

Monday, March 3rd

Off-Campus Housing Information Booth

5:30pm- 7:00 pm - Nolan's on 33rd

Thursday, March 6th

Off-Campus Housing Fair

Meet area landlords and get information about other services for living off-campus
11:00am-3:00pm - Glass Pavilion

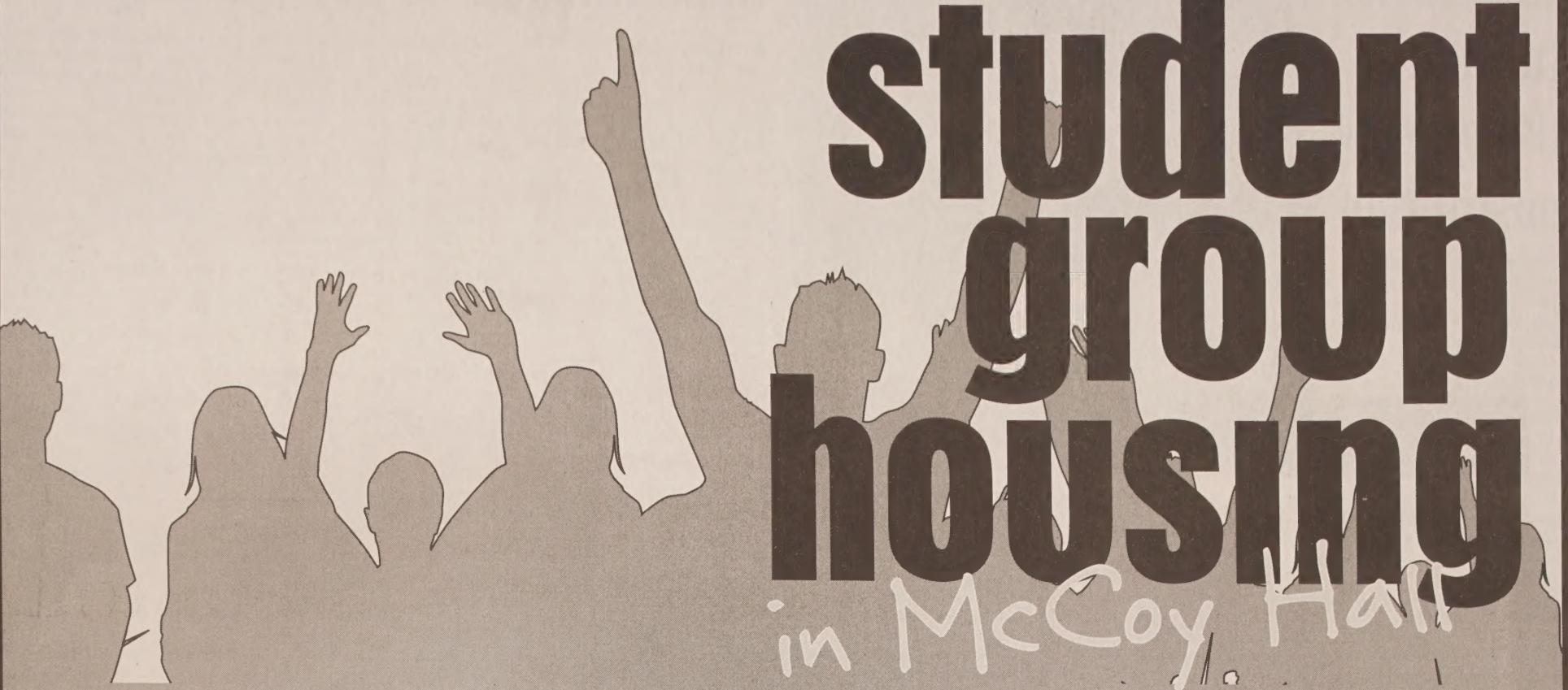
Saturday, March 8th

Off-Campus Housing Open House

Commerically owned apartment complexes will offer apartment tours to students
11:00am - 2:00pm - various locations

yourspace.jhu.edu





student group housing in McCoy Hall

work together . play together . live together

Have you bonded with classmates, members of your organization, or do you just have a big group of friends who may want to live close together? This year when you sign up for Student Group Housing in McCoy, rising sophomores, juniors and seniors will have the opportunity to register in groups of 8, 12, 16 or an entire wing. Space for students in the rising junior and senior classes will be limited.

These groups may be comprised of several suites of the same gender or suites of different genders (for example, two male suites and one female suite, just remember suites must be single-sex). Students must choose suites adjacent to, or within close proximity to, one another. Student Group Housing offers a unique opportunity for mixed groups of rising sophomores, juniors and seniors with shared common interests to live in a residential community together. Again, this option is available in McCoy Hall only.

Remember, the best part of being in Student Group Housing is that you get to live with a larger group of friends AND you get to choose your space before the regular room selection takes place. We hope to see you at our information session on Monday, February 4th!

Monday, February 4th
Student Group Housing Information Session
3:00 pm in AMR Multipurpose

Monday, February 4th @ 5:00pm- Monday, February 11th
Student Group Housing Registration
Visit: www.jhu.edu/hds/together
to complete and submit your registration on-line
Deadline: February 11th @ 11:59 pm

Tuesday, February 12th
McCoy Hall Tour
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
(Meet in the lobby of Wolman Hall)

Friday, February 15th
Student Group Housing Priority Number Notification
emailed by 5:00 pm

Wednesday, February 20th
Contract Signing for Student Group Housing
McCoy Multipurpose Room @ 5:00 pm

www.jhu.edu/hds/together

StuCo seeks student vote on new constitution

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

streamlined and organized. Among the many changes, the biggest are those regarding the election of officials.

Currently, each class elects a president, vice president, secretary and four senators to specific committees. Under the proposed constitution, however, students would only elect a president and six senators.

The senators would not be elected to specific committees but would instead work with the president to choose committees after the election.

"I don't feel like electing to a committee is beneficial," Lazerowitz said.

"If you don't get into a committee one semester, you can get into it second semester. People will be able to do more, and more of what they like."

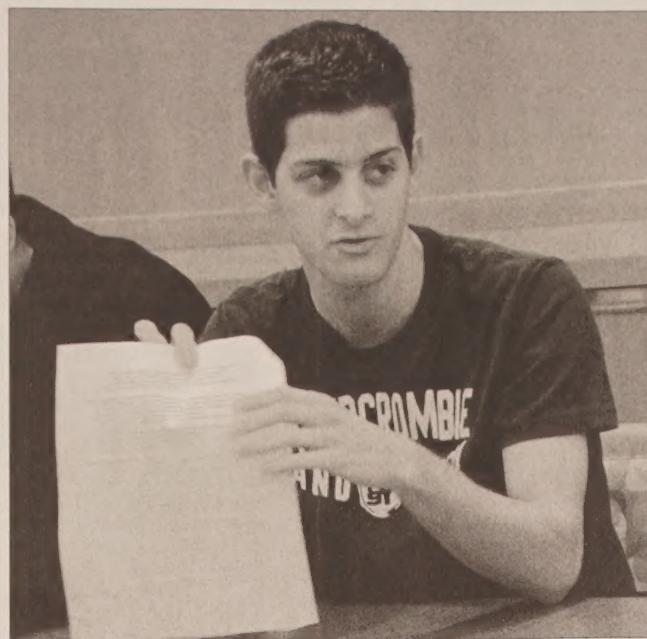
In addition, the positions of vice president and secretary would be eliminated.

"I don't feel that it's 100 percent necessary to have a vice president," Lazerowitz said, noting that the role of vice president was largely cosmetic.

"We're not the United States government. It's not like if the president left for the weekend anyone's going to die. If we were to have a vice president it might be easier to have them appointed once they've been elected."

Furthermore, he noted, under the current system, disagreement between the president and vice president often will lead to a deadlock. With only one leader per class, the new constitution could lead to a more united student council.

Other major changes include changing the committee structure and creating a judiciary.



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Several StuCo members presented a potential new constitution at their meeting.

newly drafted constitution.

"It's obviously still in the early stages. People are still looking at it and formulating their own opinions," said Chethan Mallela, a senior for the junior class.

"I really don't have a strong opinion for or against it at this point," he said. "Our current constitution is definitely vague, so there have to be some things that can be improved. I just really don't know what those things are yet."

In order to be passed, the constitution will need to receive signatures from 15 percent of the student body (approximately 700 students) and will need to be approved in a student referendum.

The rules for a student referendum have yet to be written, but it has been suggested that it will take place online like class elections.

Finally, should the constitution pass the referendum, bylaws will be written and the constitution would become official.

Next week the student council will be meeting to discuss the major changes that this constitution would bring about in greater detail.

Additional reporting by Kathryn Torgersen.

For the vast majority of student council members, last night was their first exposure to the

State introduces gay marriage bill

By ALEXANDRA WATSON
News-Letter Staff Writer

Maryland has taken its first tentative step towards modifying the state constitution to allow for same-sex marriages.

The bill has been met with a mixed response, and many are skeptical about its chances of it passing successfully.

The Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act (RFCMP) was introduced on Jan. 25, by its lead sponsors, Sens. Jamie Raskin and Rich Madaleno.

The bill itself is intended to negate last year's decision by a Maryland court to deny same-sex couples marriage licenses, strictly defining marriage as between a man and a woman.

Junior Keshav Khanijow, president of JHU's Diverse Gender and Sexuality Alliance (DSAGA), said he's hopeful for the bill's success. The court decision to disallow gay marriage, "made me feel like I was a second-class citizen in Maryland," he said.

Khanijow emphasized that if the bill is going to be successful, it's necessary for people to make their opinions known.

"It all depends on the opinions of our legislators, so it's important for people to let the legislators know that they support the bill," he said.

Also worth noting, he said, was that the bill, "doesn't overstep people's religious freedom or personal choices."

If passed, the proposed bill would state that any person authorized to perform marriages in the state of Maryland would not be required to perform any marriages which ran counter to their religious beliefs.

The RFCMP Act states that marriages between any "two people, not otherwise prohibited from marrying" are valid. Currently under Maryland law, only marriages between one man and one woman are considered valid.

Some, however, remain doubtful of the bill's future.

"Baltimore will be more favorably disposed than the rest of the

state, but there's very little chance that the bill will pass," said Matthew Crenson, a professor of political science at Hopkins.

At the time of its announcement, the bill had been sponsored by 49 lawmakers — nine in the Senate and 40 in the House of Delegates — most of whom represent areas of Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

The bill currently has about half the majority needed to pass.

Proponents of the bill are working to drum up support in other areas of Maryland.

There will be chances for Maryland residents to publicly react to the bill in the coming months.

Equality Maryland is organizing a Lobby Day 2008 on Feb. 11. This event is intended to bring out the bill's proponents for a public display of support.

"In terms of what DSAGA is doing, it's hard for us to do things because our school is located in Baltimore, and most legislation goes on in Annapolis, so it's hard to get transportation. But people will be attending Lobby Day on Feb. 11 to show their support," Khanijow said.

Many media outlets have stated that the bill is unlikely to succeed this year, in part because of positions like that of Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller.

Miller opposes both civil unions and same-sex marriages, instead suggesting that granting individual rights to gay couples one at a time might be a more successful venture.

According to Crenson, although attitudes towards same-sex marriage have been growing steadily more progressive, it's unlikely that a bill like the one proposed will succeed this year.

However, Crenson said he felt such legislation will eventually be passed. "Young people are much more favorably disposed

than older people. The fact is that when gay people started to come out, anyone not gay found out they had friends and relatives who were, and that led to a seismic change in attitude towards gay rights," he said.

The legislation is "a pretty strong bill. It allows for equal protection and equal rights for everybody while still protecting religious groups, and there's the second provision, that churches don't have to follow it, so it's fairly progressive," said senior Jordan Libowitz, president of the Hopkins College Democrats.

Libowitz also noted that the bill has been constructed in an attempt to maximize its acceptability to more conservative parties. "I believe it never uses the term civil union, it just changes 'man and a woman' to 'two people.'"

Hopkins College Republicans President Evan Lazerowitz felt that the chances of a gay marriage bill passing "are low [in] the current form of the bill because it's not just Republicans but some Democrats that are not in favor of calling it marriage."

"We are thankful that it's being done by a legislator and not a court. It's better that it comes from people's legislators," he said.

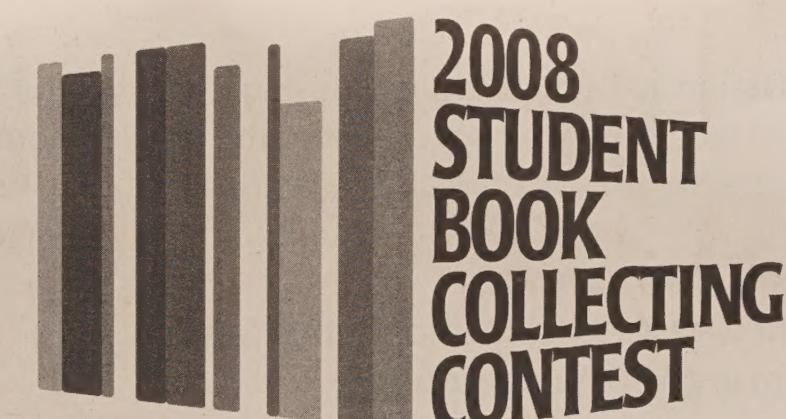
Raskin and Madaleno assumed sponsorship of the bill following the death of its original intended sponsor, Sen. Gwendolyn Britt, on Jan. 12, 2008.

Up until her death, Britt was one of Maryland's most outspoken advocates of marriage equality legislation.

Maryland State Sen. Catherine Pugh, who represents the 40th District, which includes the city of Baltimore, was listed among those who sponsored the RFCMP. She was unavailable for comment at press time.

There's very little chance that the bill will pass.

—MATTHEW CRENSON,
PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL
SCIENCE



Do you have a GREAT book collection?

Do you need some extra \$\$\$?

If so, then you should enter...

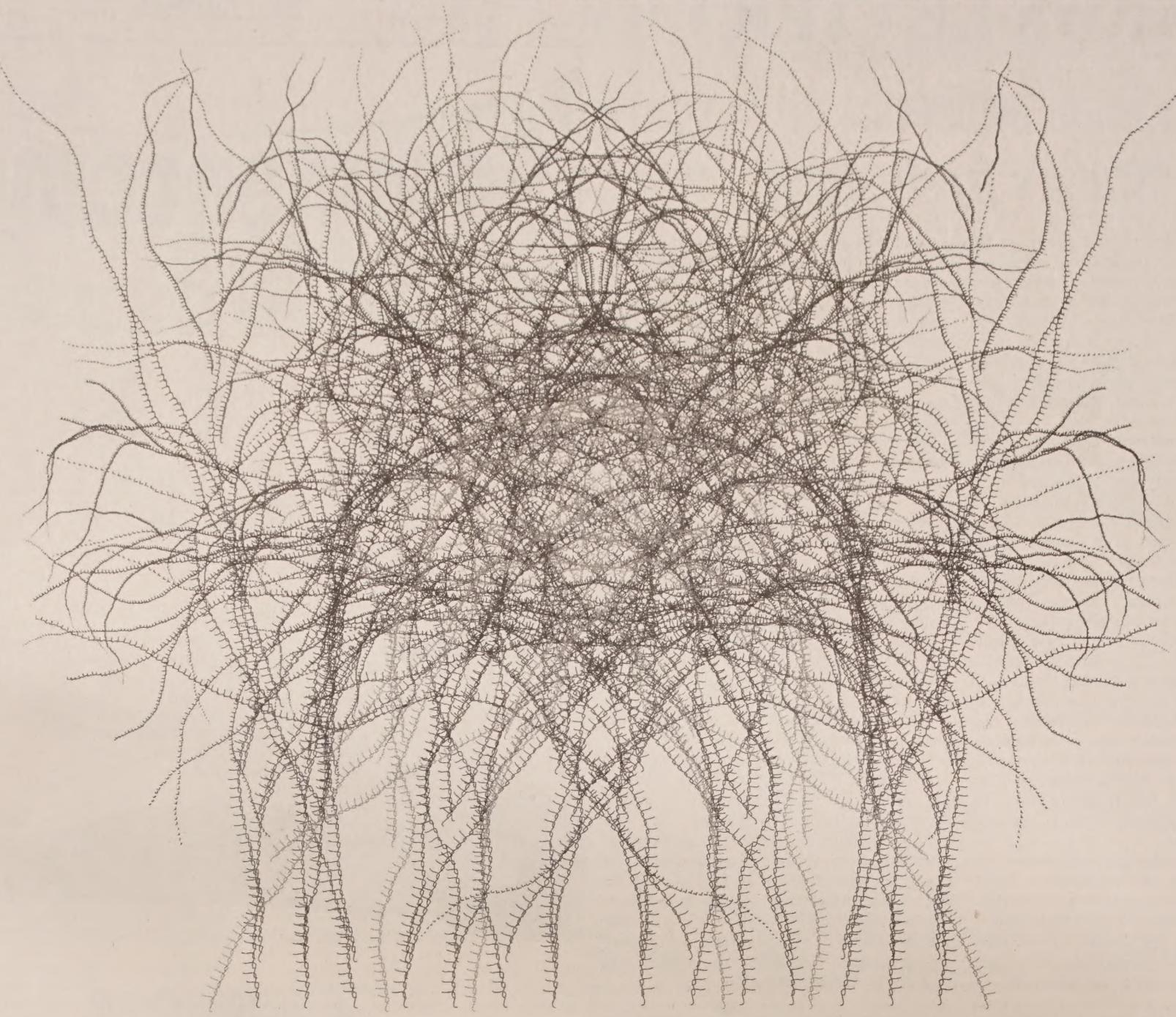
The Betty and Edgar Swerens Student Book Collecting Contest!

Deadline: Friday, February 15, 2008

Your focused, quality collection can win you:

- \$1,000 First Place
- \$500 Second Place
- \$250 Honorable Mention

All undergraduate or graduate students enrolled in a degree program at Johns Hopkins University are eligible to enter. For rules and entry form visit:
<http://www.library.jhu.edu/friends/programs/bookcollectcontest.html>



A DECADE OF DISCUSSION



JHU FOREIGN AFFAIRS SYMPOSIUM

Paul Rusesabagina

Inspiration behind the film
Hotel Rwanda
February 5 | 8 PM
shriver hall

Perceptions of Islam in the Western World

PANEL DISCUSSION
February 13 | 5:30 PM
glass pavilion

Islam in Britain's Green and Pleasant Lands

The Art of Integration
Art Exhibit commissioned by
the British Embassy
February 14-20
mattin center

College Democrats vs. College Republicans

DEBATE
March 4 | 8 PM
glass pavilion

Energy Conservation and Sustainability: The Impending Climate Crisis

PANEL DISCUSSION
March 11 | 8 PM
glass pavilion

Mike McConnell

Director of National Intelligence
March 12 | 4 PM
shriver hall

AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria: Contemporary Global Epidemics

PANEL DISCUSSION
March 26 | 8 PM
glass pavilion

Nuclear Proliferation in Iran

PANEL DISCUSSION
April 1 | 8 PM
glass pavilion

Joseph Stiglitz

Nobel Prize Winner and former
Chief Economist of the
World Bank
April 8 | 8 PM
glass pavilion

The Rise of Socialism in Latin America

PANEL DISCUSSION
April 9 | 8 PM
glass pavilion

Kimberly Dozier

CBS News Correspondent
wounded in Iraq
April 14 | 8 PM
hodson 101

Robert Baer

Former CIA operative, and
inspiration behind the
film *Syriana*
TBA

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

StuCo's fresh start?

This page has opined extensively on the general irrelevance of the Student Council and its chronic inability to achieve anything of genuine import to the student body. Climate change, Sudanese divestment, the loss of credit for internships — these are just a few of the many issues that have come to predominate the social and academic environments on campus without so much of a whimper from the Council.

And in a rare moment of sincerity, several members of the Council seem to have acknowledged this sad reality and committed themselves to changing it. Six of those members, led by Council President Scott Bierbrey '08 and Senator for Legislation Evan Lazerowitz '10, are drafting a new Student Council constitution, in the hope that fundamentally restructuring the way the Council works will make it a more powerful voice for student interests.

We agree that the Council is in desperate need of fundamental change, and it is possible that a new constitution will inject the Council with the energy it has previously lacked. A school-wide vote might also be a healthy way of reengaging the student body in the business of its representative government. Undergraduates have been chronically disconnected from the student council, which cannot lobby for student interests effectively without a mandate from its constituents.

The bulk of these changes seem purely cosmetic. For one, the new constitution would change the name of the Council to the Student Government Association. It would also reshuffle a lot of positions and rename a lot of titles, changes that hardly seem necessary for achieving the Council's broader policy objectives.

Supporters of the new constitution also intend to restructure the way the Student Activities Committee works — a potentially treacherous policy change considering the sprawling financial power of the SAC. This page has often quibbled with the way the SAC doles out funding for student groups, and it may very well be necessary to restructure the way that process works, but the Council should not do so lightly.

Student groups currently elect liaisons to lobby for funding on their behalf, and while the system as it exists is by no means perfect, it is rooted in years of tradition and the belief that the students know best how to spend their money. We urge the drafters of the new constitution to take this into consideration as they work to restructure the SAC, and we would firmly oppose any attempt to strip student groups of their power in the process.

For the most part, the proposed changes seem aimed at making the Council a more organized and effective voice for student interests. It would eliminate class councils — which currently spend most of their time and money on event planning — and establish senate committees to take up more substantive policy initiatives.

This is the right direction for the Council, and for that reason, we support the new constitution. Many of the changes may very well be cosmetic, but if sweeping structural change is what the Council needs to reorient itself and regain its sense of purpose, then so be it. As long as the process does not drag on, needlessly preoccupying the Council — which already spends so little of its time on matters of genuine importance — we believe the outcome will be a step in the right direction.

Science Guy reruns

The announcement that this year's Commencement speaker will be Bill Nye is disappointing. The issue is not that Nye is necessarily a bad speaker or that he would be a bad fit for Hopkins; rather this page's problem with the selection is that he just spoke to the school earlier this year.

It is a very strange choice, considering that a Commencement speaker should be imparting some important final advice upon graduating college students and that he already offered such advice in his speech at the MSE Symposium last fall. For the Student Council (StuCo) to choose such a speaker will prove to be to nothing more than a rerun for many seniors.

When deciding on whom to target for the selection process, StuCo made a number of questionable decisions regarding who should be selected as the commencement speaker.

The most disturbing excuse for targeting Nye over other potential candidates is that he's a non-divisive speaker. For one, when the current seniors were freshmen, former Vice President Al Gore spoke at Commencement. To say that Gore, a highly influential Democrat, is a completely non-divisive figure is absurd.

The fact is that we live in a political world. This is even truer in an election year than most years. To assume that having a Nancy Pelosi or a Michael Bloomberg (both of whom have connections to Hopkins and Baltimore) speak at Commencement would be detrimental or offensive is nonsense. Graduating seniors are about to enter the world as citizens and for that reason, they should be able to reflect upon and weigh the advice given to them.

StuCo exerted little energy in reaching out

to seniors for ideas on Commencement speakers beyond just sending out mass e-mails asking for suggestions. Holding meetings that were engaging or inclusive or possibly more publicly searching for suggestions could have enriched the search exponentially.

At the very least, it is easier for seniors to accept the decision for the Commencement speaker if they are more involved in the decision process. Furthermore it is disturbing that it appears that StuCo simply used the relationship already established by MSE to get a Commencement speaker. This lack of effort says something significant about StuCo's willingness to use their own capital to get things done for the student body.

A Commencement speaker is an essential aspect of the graduation experience. It is a class's last impression of the school that they have attended. Last impressions are important, especially for universities that hope for alumni enthusiasm in years to come. It would be unfortunate if the last impression that seniors have of Hopkins is mired with a feeling of resentment and alienation.

Hopkins has had a string of questionable selections for graduation speakers that led to dissent among graduating classes in the past few years. This trend cannot continue.

The University and StuCo should look into the prospect of paying Commencement speakers for their services. Most peer institutions do this for their graduating seniors, so at the very least, we should look into it, along with other potential measures. If paying speakers can result in consistently appropriate Commencement speakers, we should consider a change in the selection process.

their birth control, or go without. Neither option is acceptable. Additionally, some women take birth control pills for reasons other than contraception. It is important to remember that many women are prescribed birth control in order to deal with the more severe symptoms of menstruation.

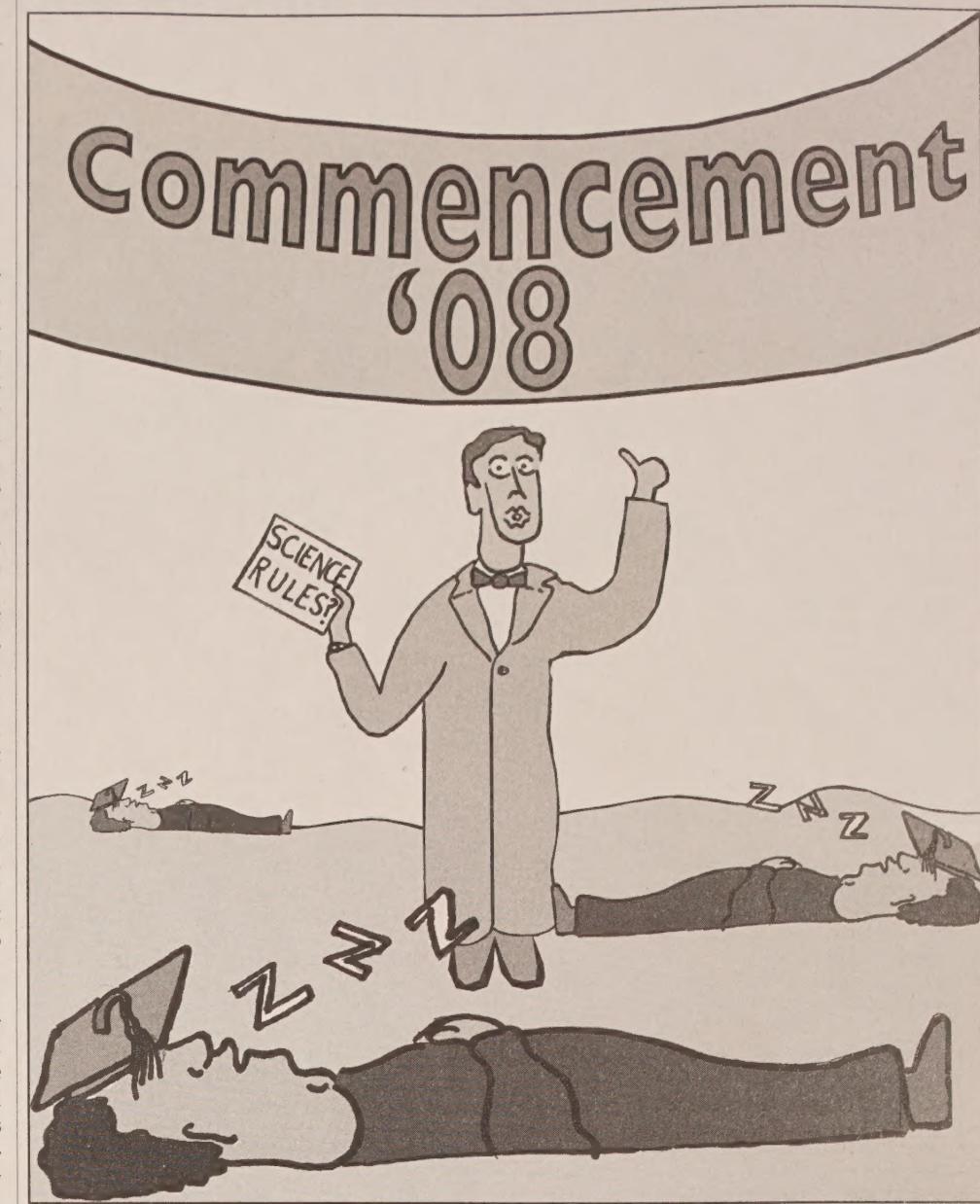
We commend the Health and Wellness Center for providing a confidential space for sex education on campus. We hope they further increase their visibility on campus as the first destination for sexual health concerns. We also encourage all students, male and female, to insist upon fair birth control prices for students. As adults, we must advocate forcefully for our own health care rights by contacting our senators and representatives, and by making ourselves heard in the upcoming election. We would marginalize ourselves even further by not speaking up.

The price of control

The price of birth control pills at Hopkins's Health and Wellness Center recently tripled. This change in federal law, a result of the passage of the 2005 Deficit Reduction Act, prevented drug manufacturers from providing health centers at college campuses with discounts for birth control. For many young women, the price of birth control has become prohibitive, meaning that some will end up sacrificing vital control over their own sexual health. Birth control is a public health necessity, particularly on college campuses, where sexual health is arguably the predominant medical concern. The effect of this has potential to keep women from maintaining control over their own bodies.

There are many women on this campus who would not like their parents to see a co-pay for birth control pills appear on their monthly insurance invoice. These women are left with two options: pay a significantly higher price for

Matt Hansen



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

There were no letters to the editor this week.

LETTERS POLICY

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or e-mailed to News.Letter@jhu.edu for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of the News-Letter and cannot be returned. The News-Letter reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author's name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. The News-Letter reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

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The Gatehouse
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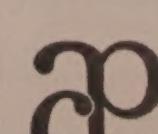
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OPINIONS

The Catholic Church plays its winning hand

By STEVE IANNELLI

The Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia issued a statement last November condemning the movie *The Golden Compass*, released late last year. Philadelphia area Catholic school principals sent letters to parents asking them to prohibit their children from seeing the film. In December, a religious rights group known as the Catholic League pulled the same stunt complaining about the book depicting children killing God. According to them, "militant atheist" author Phillip Pullman wishes to undermine the church by infecting the minds of children with secular blasphemy. There's a pattern here.

With the *Harry Potter* series tearing the *New York Times* bestsellers list to shreds, the church intervened in classic fashion by condemning the book on the grounds that "The Bible is very clear that wizards, demons and devils exist and are very real... God's people are told to have nothing to do with them," adding that "it is confusing to children when something wicked is being made to look fun." With *The Golden Compass* and its sequels gaining in popularity with young readers, all the Catholic Church can muster is to condemn yet another revolutionary children's book.

To give you an idea of the stir that the book has caused in the community, I'll pass along some criticisms. According to certain Philadelphia Catholic leaders, the series "has kids kill God and promotes atheism." The Catholic League asserted that the movie is "selling atheism in a stealthy fashion," and has called for a nationwide boycott of the film. Bill Donahue, president of the Catholic League, said that the directors of *The Golden Compass* are "using the movie as a lure to... hook the parents into thinking the books are okay and get it as a Christmas gift."

With the film's initial cravings and controversies now dying out, the mass heretical hysteria against which the church warned us seems now to be no more frightening than whatever recently raised the Homeland Security Advisory System up to orange.

Immorality has not taken our youth by the throat and cast us into a dark age of promiscuity. Santa's sleigh was not struck by lightning for carrying copies of *The Golden Compass* to be placed under Christmas trees around the country. And neither I nor anyone with whom I discussed the movie is taking a gun to the skies hoping to land a bullet and "kill God." Were the Catholics wrong? Better yet, do they even care?

Surely I cannot be the only person utterly outraged by the lunacy with which the church now conducts itself, especially in the wake of modern public sentiment toward reading. God forbid (and apparently he does) parents believe that their children actually desire a book under the tree on Christmas morning. Parents and schools alike would give anything to see their children spend more time and money on books instead of violent video games and movies. Yet with Catholicism on a slow but steady decline (28 percent of Americans identified themselves as Catholics in 1990, while only 22 percent did in 2007), prominent church officials are not hesitating to shoot their public relations department in the foot.

Has paranoia so tenaciously gripped the church by the bells that it can find no other option? Perhaps, but there is still time for Catholic officials to reconcile their differences with contemporary society. So much benefit can come to children from reading at a young age, including enhanced vocabulary, communication skills and general intellectual enrichment. Works of fiction such as *Harry Potter* or *The Golden Compass* endow young imaginations with prolific creativity and should be encouraged in any household.

The church needs to open its arms to the ideas contained in such literature. Notions of witches, wizards and giant polar bears are not in any way harmful to the minds of children. These are works of fantasy: fictional literature teeming with imaginative metaphors and parables, all to be taken with a grain of salt. Sure, there may be accounts of demons, devils, death and wanton destruction, but they are in no way reality, and should not be interpreted as such. Does the church not possess the ability to discern between the two? Perhaps I've said too much.

If the Catholic Church wishes to garner more support, it better drop the paranoia and embrace the vehemence with which children are finally taking up reading. Otherwise, the pressures of secular society will ultimately draw the aging institution into obscurity. There is time for reconciliation, but only at the hands of intelligent and progressive leaders.

Smoking or non-smoking? The Maryland smoking ban

The Md. smoking ban infringes on individual and property rights

By DYLAN DIGGS

Tomorrow will mark a sad day for democracy in the state of Maryland. On May 17, 2007, Gov. Martin O'Malley signed into law a statewide ban on smoking in bars, restaurants and private clubs.

For some, a ban on smoking indoors may sound good. And certainly something must be done to essentially an epidemic that is damaging our citizens. Despite this, Feb. 1 marks a dark moment for the relationship between the state and individual.

It is very true that millions of individuals in our nation are suffering from an addiction to smoking. Smoking is a horrible thing and condemns so many to a slow painful death to end a shortened life. Today, after the lawsuits and studies, we all know the detrimental effects of smoking and what it does to the body.

This ban on smoking indoors, however, infringes on a number of basic rights that should not be ignored when dealing with smokers. The first of which is minority rights. A minority is not necessarily a group of people determined by their race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation. A minority, in a democracy, could best be defined as a group of people of different, or even conflicting, character and interests from the majority. Children are minorities, as are farmers, seniors, union workers, the wealthy, the list goes on. The framers recognized the threat in a democracy of the tyranny of the majority — namely they were concerned with the poor taking from the wealthy — and that is why our Constitution is heavily geared toward the rights of the minority.

In today's world, smokers are a minority, and that's a good thing. I'm not a smoker, but I recognize that because smoking is taboo and it happens to be in fashion to crack down on it, as it should be, that does not give the state the right to do whatever it wishes to individuals who cannot fight back. This includes racking up the prices of cigarettes to exorbitant prices with tax after tax and kicking smokers out of restaurants, bars and even private clubs.

At the end of the day smokers get hit twice. Once by the tobacco companies,

who should have been sued, as they were, and the state should maintain heavy oversight over their actions and regulation because they have proven to be untrustworthy. And secondly, smokers are hit by the state, punishing them for their highly addictive habit.

I doubt making smokers second-hand citizens will help them give up smoking, just as over 40 years of surgeon general warnings have failed to help 48 million American citizens to quit. Instead smokers will just lose even more dignity while doing it and then be hit again by the pneumonia as this ban becomes official in February. Couldn't the state legislature and O'Malley have pushed the date back to a warmer month?

This is not to overlook the apparently often forgotten issue of private property. It would be fine for Maryland to restrict smoking in the State House or other government buildings. But to go into private institutions and say that one's business or a club cannot allow someone to smoke is going to far. These businesses are privately owned. They're not all chains — many owners are people just trying to make a buck. Now, businesses can get a waiver if they can prove this ban is hurting their business, as it will, but that only lasts until 2011. Then they are left to the smoking is

bad; it is whether banning smoking in private institutions is also bad. Finally, as for the issue of second-hand smoke in restaurants and bars, smoking and non-smoking is a fine solution. Maybe this is segregation in some way, but at least both individuals can be inside on a snowy February night. It never bothered me when sitting at T.G.I. Friday's that there were smokers sitting on the other side of the building. We have gone too far in sanitizing America. The state should mandate that restaurants and bars must offer a state approved non-smoking option for its patrons by 2011. That solution seems reasonable and dignified for all involved.

Dylan Diggs is a senior political science major from Mount Airy, Md. and the Opinions Editor for the News-Letter.

Non-smokers can take a breath of fresh air with the smoking ban

By KEVIN DIETER

I'm as much in favor of individual rights as the next guy, and that's why I couldn't be happier about the new smoking ban in Maryland. Consider the 2005 study by the American Lung Association,

which showed that only 21 percent of American adults were current smokers. That means that every time you've been greeted at your favorite bar, club or restaurant by that ominous cloud of noxious second-hand smoke, it was the result of just one out of five people who were there. Based on the principles of a democratic society alone, it seems that the law should protect 79 percent of the population.

Of course, just because a large majority of people do not smoke does not directly mean that banning smoking is not a violation of smokers' rights. The law protects the right of persons over the age of 18 to purchase and use tobacco products, and it is true that banning smoking in public places infringes upon the implicit right of smokers to use the products they have legally purchased.

Based on innumerable studies regarding the dangers of second hand smoke, however, not banning smoking in public places would effectively deny non-smokers' right to not smoke. So it is impossible to protect the rights of one group without necessarily ignoring the rights of the other group. Given the choice, I pick the one that is healthier, cleaner and supportive of a significant majority of the population.

It is also important to remember that

this is not a ban on smokers but on smoking. Any smoker can go to any bar they want so long as they don't smoke while they are inside. According to an article in the *Baltimore Sun*, many bars are already planning to add outdoor patios and bars

for smokers, meaning that smokers will simply have to get up and go outside for a few minutes if they need a cigarette; they will not be forced to avoid public places all together.

The importance of this is two-fold: First, bars and restaurants will not lose the business of smokers, and second, smokers, with only a minor inconvenience, will

be able to go everywhere they could before. Considering the rather significant "inconvenience" posed by second-hand smoke (lung cancer, heart disease, etc.), this is an unbelievably small price to pay.

For many years smoking was considered "cool," but those days seem to have come to an end in light of a multitude of scientific studies proving the severe dangers it poses.

Likewise, smoking in bars, restaurants and the like has long been culturally acceptable, but it is a pleasure to know that at least in this case, politicians are willing to make changes in light of significant scientific evidence. So next time you're out on the town, pull up a chair, order a beer and take a long breath of that free, clean air.

Kevin Dieter is a senior cognitive neuroscience major from Westchester, N.Y.



MATT HANSEN/GRAFICS EDITOR

New refrigerator syndrome

By PHILIP CASTROVINC

By now all Hopkins students have returned from break. Most would probably agree that break was a relief: TV all day, friends from high school, free food in the kitchen you can take whenever, no deadlines. It's great... for a while.

Our breaks during the winter tend to be very long, and believe you me, I'm the last guy you'll find complaining about that. But then one must consider our mental state during winter break's hedonistic ordeal of nothingness: It's an unbearably frustrating experience.

In school, the savvy International Studies major writes about nuclear ter-

rorism and the Middle East. The econ major makes sense of what the future holds after the sub-prime meltdown. The pre-med is probably shadowing physicians at the hospital, looking at weird and bizarre things.

All that intellectual activity stops when we return home. Those feelings of excitement and academic curiosity, although can be stressful, are replaced by those enchanting words we haven't heard since we left for school, "Sweetie, can you help me with the groceries?"

Or better yet, you sit down at the dinner table and the banal conversation arises, "So, how's school?" This is magnified by family friends coming over who know

nothing about you, really, so the questions start flying. What's your major? What do you want to do? Where are you living? How do you like it? (I hate that question.) Someone asks you the inevitable questions. So, how's school? Then you start in about your travels abroad, the cancer you saw removed, the book you helped to co-author, the political campaign you're involved in, the readings you have done. Your parents' eyes go wide, and you think to yourself, "Ah!

A response, an interesting comment is coming!" But no, "Wow... (pause) ... so, we just got a new refrigerator!"

There you have it. This is what is termed the New Refrigerator Syndrome.

You now get the updates on everything from the dog's bowel movements to your third cousin's orthodontist appointment. You are back to domestic life. This life does not include foreign languages or engineering, but mortgages and routines. This life is essential, and if done correctly, bliss, but for a 21-year-old who wants nothing more than make a meager contribution based on his experience, it can be hell.

So, here comes February and with it a bittersweet return back to school.

Philip Castrovinci is a senior public health major from Sarasota, Fla.

Sometimes a realistic attitude is better than a sunny one

"You know," a friend confessed to me lately, "when I first met you, I was kind of scared of you."

This was an odd statement to make to me, of all people — me, the girl who barely spans five feet in height and is a remarkable contrast to my five-eight, could-be-a-model friend. She must have noticed how confused I probably looked, because she was quick to amend her words: "No, not scared like, 'Oh, she's going to beat me up!' But more like, 'Wow, I shouldn't mess with her.'"

Apparently, you really shouldn't, because it is not the first time I've heard sentiments like this before. I'm the kind of person who, admittedly, doesn't seem too conventionally nice: My friends have nicknamed me Tinkerbell and even Buttercup (*a la* the *Powerpuff Girls*) due to my feisty nature. I guess I've got this personality that may seem pretty intense to those who don't know me, but you learn to love my so-called "spunk" with time. Or so I think.

Anyway this little tidbit of conversation slipped my mind for a while, until I went to dinner with some of my boyfriend's cousins for the first time over break. It was awkward at first, but after we got all of the standard questions out of the way (e.g., "How's John Hopkins?" followed by my struggle not to correct them out of politeness), the conversation eased up. We enjoyed dinner, and slowly my nerves disappeared, until I felt comfortable enough to shed the polite exten-

rior and really be myself.

What started with the usual banter between my boyfriend and I quickly turned into the rest of the table ogling whatever casually slipped out of my mouth. These were things I nonchalantly said, without even thinking about them, but, in the end, felt like the punch lines on MTV's *Yo Momma*, with his cousins acting as the taunting commentators. I joked about leaving him for "bigger, better things" (innuendo not intended); from their reactions, I felt like my boyfriend was an Internet GIF with "OWNED" plastered across his reddening face.

And when I tried out the drums on *Rock Band* (after wowing them with my guitar skills), I coyly defended my loss on "Bang a Gong" by saying I didn't want to beat the regular drummer too badly. This, too, produced fits of laughter and led one cousin to say, "This girl can talk!" but more so led me to question just how intense my spur-of-the-moment comments may seem.

So why is it that a less direct, more sarcastic sense of humor like mine makes someone less approachable, less likeable (at least at first), and even bitchy? Is society — at least American society — so used to associating generally "nice" people with cheery, bubbly attitudes? Jenah, of *America's Next Top Model* semifinalist fame, was constantly being

dubbed offensive and "unprofessional" for her caustic jokes. She responded to the *ANTM* judges' criticism by saying that she didn't have to "spew rainbows incessantly" to be a good role model or to be likeable. And I agreed entirely — a little variety can't hurt, can it? (The judges, however, didn't feel the same way; Saleisha, the exhausting effervescent Rihanna look-alike, ultimately won the competition.)

American humor, among other aspects of our culture, tends to be more laugh-out-loud and in-your-face than that of other cultures. While comedies in America immediately bring to mind the

of the *American Pie* variety, with blatant innuendos and crass jokes galore, British comedy,

for example, seems more clever than hilarious — more "smirk" than "guffaw." The Brits are darker and more subtle, exceptions aside, and don't necessarily need to show their kindness via cheery faces and exuberant voices.

Perhaps the best example of American standards of "nice" stems from the Disney touch: Princes are charming and conveniently punctual, princesses are joyous and kind even to forest animals and happy endings always prevail. It's an idealistic society in which merely wishing sweetly on a star can lead to the fulfillment of dreams.

Yet, the original fairy tales, *a la* the Brothers Grimm, weren't so idealistic — instead, they were dark, in European fashion, and even violent. The tales originally weren't even intended for children! But they spawned legends, stories and phenomena like those created by the "wonderful world of Disney" (in which "good" automatically equals lyrical and peppy).

Those original German folk tales were different from what we know now, but think: They practically created what we know! A fresh perspective in a strange fashion really isn't the end of the "nice" world that we've come to define.

The stories weren't full of flowers and bunnies, but they ultimately gave the same (general) message as Disney's, in a rather different way; and likewise, just because I don't sugarcoat things as others might definitely doesn't mean that I don't mean well. Personally, I'd much rather have someone say what they thought — humorous twinge optional — than have someone "nicen" things up all the time.

Or maybe it's just me. But if you ever encounter someone who comes across like I do — with an unconventional sense of humor and an overwhelming desire just to be liked for herself — give her a chance. I promise, she's not as mean as she seems.

Jackie Huang is a freshman biology major from Silicon Valley, Calif.

Jackie Huang

Introducing

HOPKINS Healthy Options Program



Hopkins Healthy Options NOW AT LEVERING FOOD COURT

A health information partnership of JHU Dining Services and the JHU Student Health and Wellness Center, the Hopkins Healthy Option Program is simply designed to provide our customers with basic nutritional information on the many healthy food options in our dining facilities. Using both the American Heart Association and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) nutritional guidelines and information, we've developed the program as a simple and effective means of helping you identify healthier food choices at every meal, every day.

Look for the Hopkins Healthy Option Symbol

Look for the Hopkins Healthy Option Program symbol when dining with us. You'll see the Hopkins Healthy Option logo at deli counters, grills, salad stations and even at pizza and dessert counters. We strive to make it easy for you to make good, informed food no matter what choose to eat.

By choosing one of these items, you'll know that it meets the basic criteria of the program-- meaning it's a healthier option-- low in saturated fat and cholesterol and is made with low fat dairy products, vegetable or leaner animal proteins and healthier oils.

Finally, it's important to note that the Hopkins Healthy Option program is not designed to be a weight loss or medically-endorsed program, but rather an information source for the campus community. For those interested in weight loss programs, be sure to consult your physician or a medical professional at the Student Health and Wellness Center before beginning any diet or exercise program.

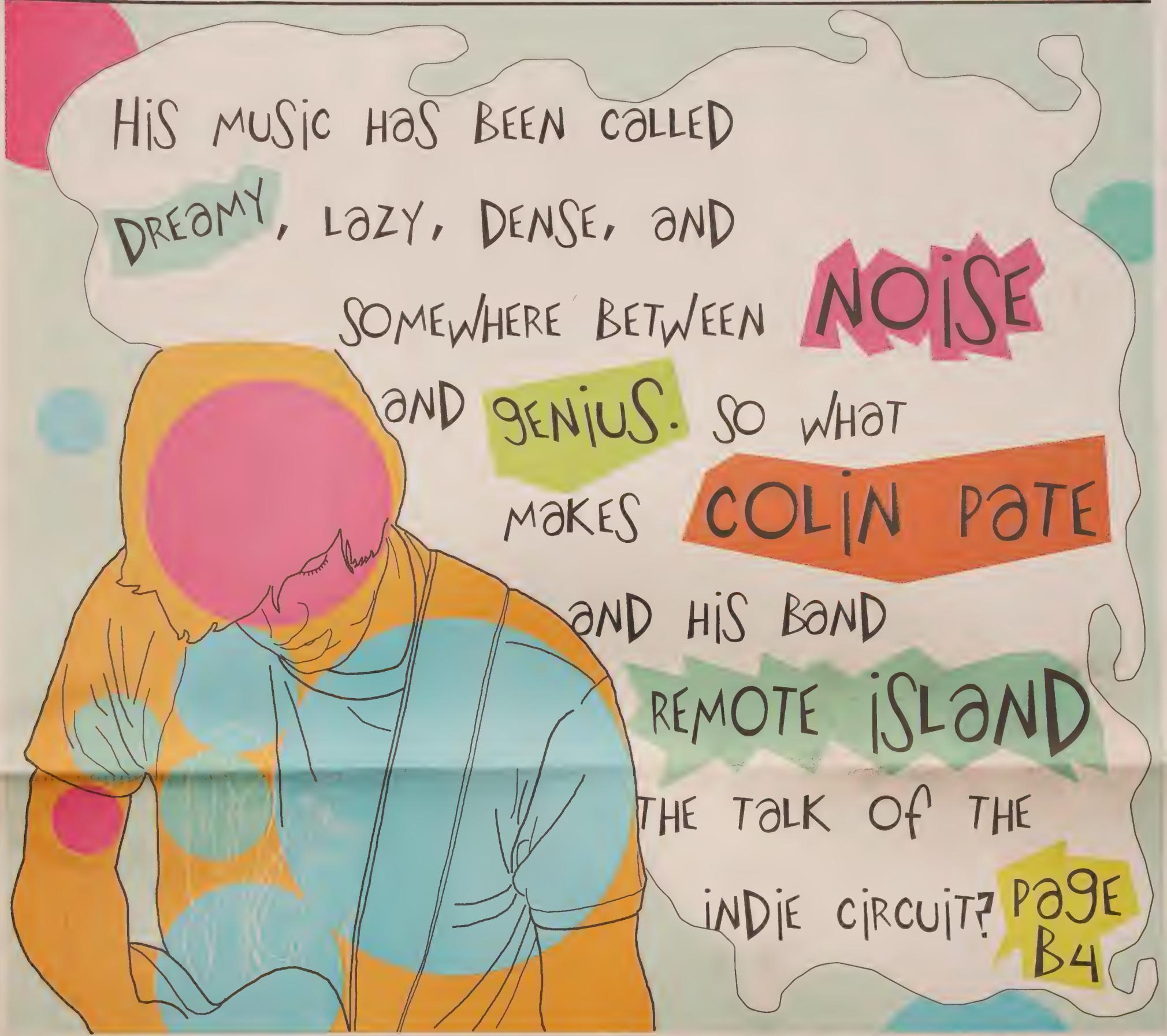
HOPKINS Healthy Options Program



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JANUARY 31, 2008



HIS MUSIC HAS BEEN CALLED
DREAMY, LAZY, DENSE, AND

SOMEWHERE BETWEEN
AND GENIUS. SO WHAT

MAKES **COLIN PATE**

AND HIS BAND

REMOTE ISLAND

THE TALK OF THE

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B4

PLANNING A DATE CHEAP

Baltimore is a very cheap date. From the Inner Harbor to Fells Point, Charm City is the perfect spot for lovers in love— with their wallets. Read more on B8.



CALENDAR JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 7

JAN.
31

The Whigs continue their 'Mission' at 8X10

The Whigs are riding high, it would seem, after this past Friday's performance on *The Late Show with David Letterman*. A landmark, a mission accomplished perhaps, for this yet-to-be-signed trio hailing from Athens, Ga., whose lead singer Parker Gispert commented that he "actually [has] a giant VHS collection of different people playing on late-night television." Now he can add his own performance to the stash.

With the release of their second album, *Mission Control*, the Whigs are working towards the realization of an admittedly lofty title given to them by *Rolling Stone* in 2006 — that is, "the best unsigned band in America."

But highly expectant superlatives and past comparisons to the Strokes and indie rock band of the 1990s, Pavement, are not about to psyche out Gispert and his bandmates, Julian Dorio and Tim Deaux.

In an important decision to sign with ATO, the Whigs explicitly expressed their determination to stay true to their own direction as musicians. ATO, the indie label created by Dave Matthews which features names such as Ben Kweller, Radiohead and My Morning Jacket, has been noted as naturally very artist-friendly.

Just last summer, the Whigs recorded their first album, *Give 'Em All a Big Fat Lip*, in the basement of a fraternity. The resulting sound channeled '90s indie rock, with Gispert's rough vocals strangely evocative of Kurt Cobain. But their



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.HIGHS.NET](http://WWW.HIGHS.NET)

The Whigs bring their garage band roots to the stage with even more power and punch; tonight, in Baltimore's 8X10 club.

tunes are not to be confused with the moody melodies of Nirvana. Instead, their sound is upbeat and heartening, punchy and rich with emotion.

As per *Relix* magazine, "Each song [of *Give 'Em All a Big Fat Lip*] unfurls with hook after hook of sweet melodious college radio pop/rock, all punctuated by Gispert's shaky, earnest vocals."

And on stage, the band's "garage," or, rather frat basement, roots are entirely perceptible. They rouse crowds and leave them windblown and riled up from the experience.

As for their sound, the Whigs' lead singer has a similar sound to Dave Grohl of the Foo

Fighters. However, all together, the Whigs seem to have a wider range of musical effect and impact, a "lo-fi garage sound," often achieved through ragged, melodic guitar sounds and an ever-varying drum pulse. In the short 37 minutes of *Mission Control*, the Whigs assert with ease their expansive talent and still, their striking accessibility to listeners.

The fact that they come from the same town as R.E.M. perhaps adds to their mystique, but whatever it is, it's undeniable that the Whigs are sure to put on a "freaking great" performance (*Stuff* magazine recently rated them a 9/10, a.k.a., "freaking great").

Unlike other contemporary music talents who have gotten their cred through MySpace.com or Internet downloads, Gispert says that "the way [they've] grown as a band is as a live band playing in bars."

So even though tonight's show (Jan. 31) might require some last minute scrambling to organize in the direction of the 8X10 club, located at 10 E. Cross St., a Whigs performance for \$8 is certain to leave you musically satisfied, and monetarily stable. And even if you can't make it tonight, be sure to check them out, and judge for yourself if they truly are "the best" of the best these days.

— Dana Covit

Campus events

Thursday, Jan. 31

4:30 p.m. Honors Program in Humanistic Studies
Informational meeting for sophomores, juniors and seniors interested in learning about the Honors Program in Humanistic Studies should go to Gilman 111.

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Focus the Nation.
The Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Homewood campus will participate in two separate events as part of "Focus the Nation," a nationwide in-depth look at global warming solutions. At Homewood, the event will take place in Shaffer 3.

6 p.m. Margaret Brent Orchestra: Volunteers Needed
Play an instrument? Want to help the community? Join the Margaret Brent Orchestra and teach underprivileged elementary school students from the Baltimore area the joys of music. Come to the first meeting in Leveing Café, near Pura Vida.

8 p.m. Witness Theater presents "Win or Die!"

Friday, Feb. 1

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Witness Theater, JHU's only totally student-run theater group, is proud to present *Win or Die!* a student-written musical comedy at the Swirnow Theater, Mattin Center. The same production will also be held at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 2. On Sunday, Feb. 3, Witness Theater puts on a matinee show of *Win or Die!* at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at the door.

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Saturday, Feb. 2

1 p.m. - 6 p.m. African Film Festival.

The Baltimore Museum of Art is hosting the African Film Festival for two days of critically acclaimed short-format and feature releases by African directors. Free tickets will be available on a first come, first served basis. Saturday's movies include: *Juju Factory* at 1 p.m., *Meokgo and the Stick Fighter* at 3 p.m., and at 4:15, *Les Saignantes*. All movies being shown have English subtitles.

5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. Anxious Climate: Architecture at the Edge of Environment

(Opens Thursday, Jan. 31, ends Sunday, March 9). MICA presents an art exhibit of three European architecture firms that explore the relationship between nature and the built environment beyond green design. The exhibit will be at the Maryland Institute College of Art, in the Meyerhoff Gallery (1301 W. Mount Royal Ave.).

7 p.m. One Republic.

Local events

Thursday, Jan. 31

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7 p.m. One Republic.

The second day of the African Film Festival at the BMA will

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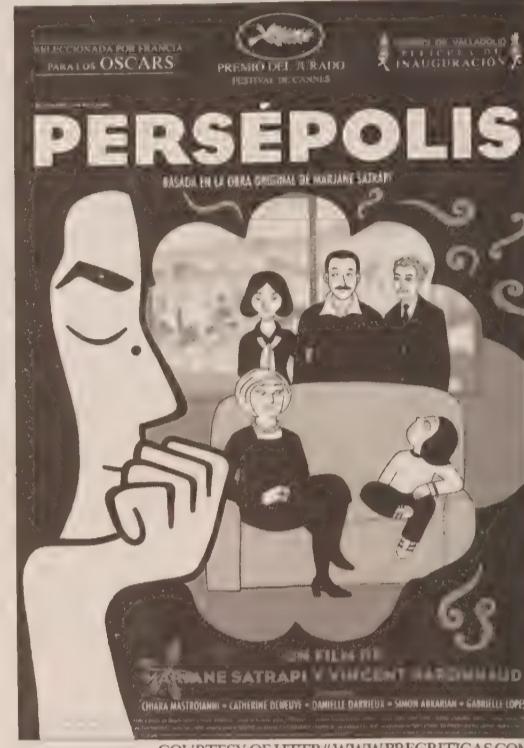
MOVIE OPENINGS

Persepolis

Opening at the Charles Theatre

Friday, Feb. 1

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With amazing wit and heart, this award-winning animated feature tells the poignant story of a young girl coming-of-age in Iran during the Islamic Revolution.

Friday, Feb. 1

Monday, Feb. 4

7 p.m. Carsons Feel Good Fest.

With a full solo acoustic set performed by Adam Duritz of Counting Crows, this charity event (if you're 21, that is) is worth a pretty penny (and will cost you one, too). The event will raise money and awareness for pediatric neurological disorders, and all proceeds will be donated to Johns Hopkins Pediatric Epilepsy. Visit the venue website at <http://www.ramshadlive.com> for further information.

8:45 p.m. The Remote Islands.

The Lo-Fi Social Club, located at 1825 N. Charles St., hosts A Sunny Day in Glasgow, The Remote Islands, Karmella's Game and Avec. For more information, visit Lo-Fi's Web site at <http://www.lofisocialclub.com>.

Saturday, Feb. 2

Wednesday, Feb. 6

7 p.m. Groundhog Day 2008.

Go to Brewer's Hill, 3600 O'Donnell St., for this annual party in a unique industrial space where architects, contractors and building lovers get together for food and music.

Exposure

By Laura Bitner



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Nemett conquers both fiction and art

By VANESSA VERDINE
News-Letter Staff Writer

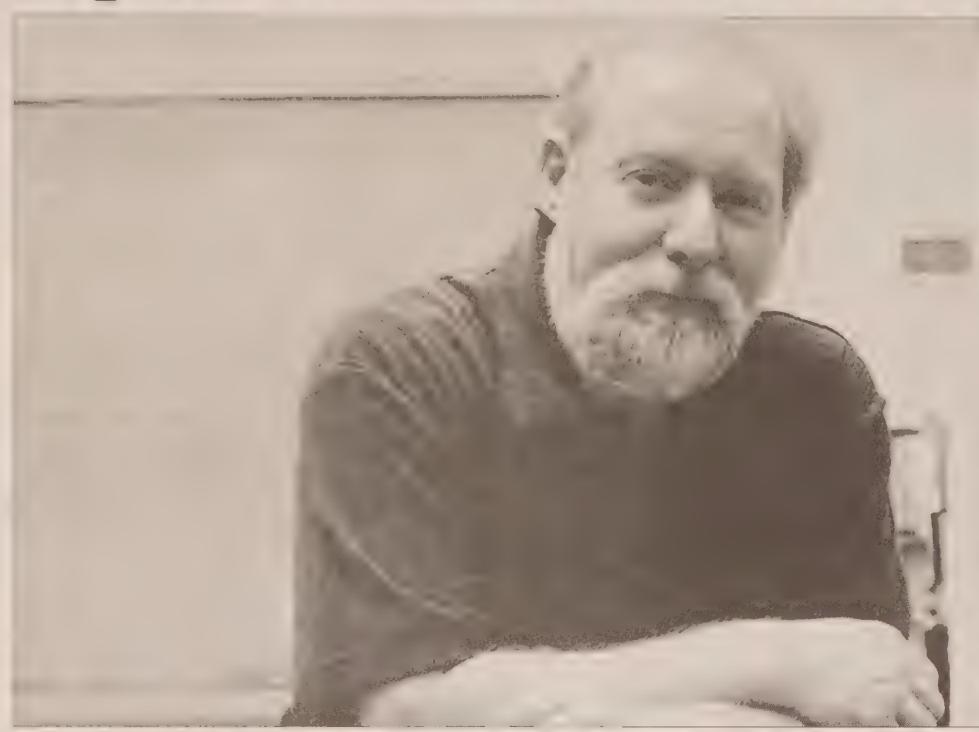
On Thursday, Feb. 7 the Homewood Art Workshops, Writing Seminars and Homewood Arts Programs will host artist, author and teacher Barry Nemett. Mr. Nemett will be giving a talk entitled "Fiction and Vision: Pigments of Imagination" at the Mattin Center on Thursday, Feb. 7.

In the talk, which focuses on how his artwork and his writing influence one another, he will present slides of his artwork and read from his 2006 novel, *Crooked Tracks*. The free presentation begins at 6 p.m. in room 101 of the F. Ross Jones Building of the Mattin Center. He will be signing books after the program.

Nemett, who lives in Stevenson, Md., received his B.F.A. from Pratt Institute and his M.F.A. from Yale University, both in Painting. Among his numerous awards and grants to study and teach in Italy, France, Scotland and Japan; the 1999 Faculty Enrichment Grant given by the Maryland Institute College of Art, where he is painting department chair; and the 1978 First Annual Trustee Fellowship awarded by the Maryland Institute College of Art for excellence in teaching.

In addition, he is a frequent curator of traveling exhibitions and has shown his work in both national and international institutions, including the Museum of Art in France, Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art in Japan, Baltimore Museum of Art, the Andre Zarre Gallery and ICE Gallery in New York City and numerous galleries in Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, New York City and Boston.

His writing includes articles published in magazines such as the *New Art Examiner*, an introduction to the textbook *Images, Objects, and Ideas: Viewing the Vi-*



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.PRINCETON.EDU](http://WWW.PRINCETON.EDU)

sual Arts

, pieces in *Forays*, the MICA publication of short stories and poems, and, most recently, his novel, *Crooked Tracks*.

Nemett's artwork explores the layers of what we see when we look at things in real life, especially in nature. Thus, it is fitting that his work includes not only paintings but also room-sized installations which combine his paintings, sculpture and objects sometimes evoking a forest-like sense.

In an artist statement, Nemett said, "Inexhaustibly layered by what is in front weaving into what is in back, that shimmer is lit by intricate blends of shallows and depths, by one rhythm responding to the beat of another, by what is felt stroking what is

seen. No matter how much my drawings and paintings celebrate looking through this in order to see that, my primary concern is with the shimmering surface of life."

Nemett's work has been described as narrative, perhaps because in his work he places painted panels one after another, in a story-book sequence. However, he says, "Although these multi-paneled structures often suggested sequential narratives, no chronologically unfolding story was ever intended. Rather, what I cared about most was the creation of a visually dynamic patterned ensemble enveloped by a particular

rhythm and atmosphere of color that informed the subject."

Crooked Tracks, published in 2006 by Barnhardt & Ashe, is a mélange of Nemett's work as

an artist and his

writing skill.

The book, a coming-of-age tale set in the 1960s, includes illustrations by the author himself and poems by his son, Adam Nemett.

The title itself, which a 1998 installation shares, hints at the artist's sense that his writing and artwork are deeply interwoven. This overlap, how both skills have augmented and encouraged one another, will be the subject of his presentation.

Director Wes Craven reflects on his time at Homewood

By JAMES FREEDMAN
Online Editions Editor

Wes Craven is a Hopkins alum perhaps best known for scaring millions worldwide, creating horror classics such as *A Nightmare on Elm Street* and *Scream*.

Although his films have certainly quickened the pace of my heart, sitting in Craven's elegant but by no means ostentatious living room was an entirely different experience. Trickling water from a fountain outside was soothingly audible and one of his cats took the opportunity to jump onto my lap and meow playfully.

Before meeting Craven I had read the surprised exclamations of previous interviewers, who had expected to meet Freddy-in-carnate and instead found themselves face-to-face with a well-spoken former humanities professor. Despite being forewarned, I must admit to being nearly as taken in as they were by his calm and thoughtful demeanor.

Craven described growing up in a religious family, and then matriculating to Wheaton College in Illinois, which he found to be similarly devout.

"I was the editor of the literary magazine my junior year, and it got cancelled by the president of the college who denounced me from the pulpit," he said. "I'd published two short stories: One was about an unwed mother, and one was about a woman who was having a relationship with a black man."

Elliot Coleman was formerly an ordained deacon who had left the Cathedral of St. John in order to go into publishing, according to the Hopkins Named Professorships Web page. At the time of Craven's public humiliation in Illinois, Coleman was leading the Writing Seminars department at Hopkins, which he had founded nearly two decades

before. Craven heard about the Writing Seminars program and sent off some of his "controversial" work.

"I sent him some stuff and he was very interested," Craven said. "And so after I graduated ... I hitchhiked to Hopkins and showed up: no money, no plan, no nothing. And Elliot accepted me and gave me a scholarship. I became his assistant, and then I got a student loan to pay for the rest."

Craven earned a Master's in Philosophy and Writing Seminars in 1964, after one year of studying under Coleman. Coleman — who, according to Craven, had known the likes of T.S. Eliot and James Joyce personally — was a great inspiration as a writer and as a guide.

"The presence and the tutelage of Elliot Coleman was immensely important," Craven said. "Coming out of fundamentalism into the world as they call it — which is as good a term as any — can be wrenching, because you can't leave it without one part of your brain that's been inculcated with this stuff for fifteen, 20 years [saying], 'You are backsiding, you're working with the devil,' all these horrible things. Elliot was one of the first adults that said, 'You know what, that particular version of Christianity is totally [messed] up, don't worry about it' ... God bless everybody that's in that kind of religion, but if you're somebody who transitions out of it it's not an easy transition at all, and if somebody can help you feel OK about it that's really an important person. Elliot was like that."

His time at Hopkins was "very intense," during which he wrote a novel and read a great deal.

"My year at Hopkins was just enormously important ... I swear to God we read every single important novelist of the 20th

CONTINUED ON PAGE B5

Kimya Dawson surprises fans with free local show

By ALEX BEGLEY
Managing Editor

What if your favorite singer/songwriter were playing a free show in your town tonight and you just found out about it? Right. Now. If you are anything like me you would have a slight conniption fit at your intern desk and curse under your breath for the two hours until your lunch break when you could call everyone and their mom about the show. Thus was the scene when I opened up Kimya Dawson's Web site one morning at work and realized she had just announced, that day, two shows in Baltimore. One free, at the Sound Garden in Fells Point, and one not free at the 2640 Space.

Kimya Dawson has stumbled upon some fame this year. Nine of her songs (from her solo work and from her *Moldy Peaches* and *Antsy Pants* involvement) are included on the *Juno* soundtrack and the heartbreaking anthem to my high school years, "Anyone Else but You," is a major theme in the film. According to a *New York Times* article ("Born of 'Juno': A

Hit Soundtrack With an Uneasy Singer at Its Heart," Jan. 2008)

Jason Reitman, the film's director, cites Ellen Page, the adorable Juno, as the inspiration for using Dawson's music. The actress thought her vintage horror movie loving character would be into the *Moldy Peaches*. Apparently fans of her character have found themselves fascinated with Kimya Dawson as well because the soundtrack has topped charts, launching Kimya on a promotional tour, and even inspiring a reunion with Adam Green, made possible in large part by the cosmic forces that control *The View*.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B5



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.STRYMISH.COM](http://WWW.STRYMISH.COM)

Dawson has garnered recent fame due to contributions to the *Juno* soundtrack.

Jessica Alba speaks about her upcoming film, *The Eye*

By JOHN KERNAN
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Jessica Alba stars in the new film *The Eye*, to be released this Friday. Alba plays a blind woman who has had donor corneas implanted to restore her sight. Her new sight, however, includes things that other people don't — and shouldn't — see. *The News-Letter* had the opportunity to sit in on an interview with Alba on Tuesday, to discuss her new movie and her career. The interview was a roundtable, with many interviewers asking questions. Alba, who we might expect to be more of a pretty face than an eloquent speaker, was very professional and well-spoken.

Arizona State University: In the past year or so you've done a lot of action comedy, thriller and now a horror movie. My question is what kind of roles do you find yourself gravitating more towards now that you're going to be a mother? And is there any type of role that you haven't done yet that you'd like to try?

Jessica Alba: I think initially I'm going to probably do maybe a little bit more character-driven roles, kind of more indies, ensemble casts, smaller budget. Not necessarily the big box office movies. I've had my eye out for an action movie since I finished *Dark Angel*. It's been this long since I finished and I still haven't found a good female-driven action [movie], so I've been looking for it. So if you have any suggestions send them my way.

Northwestern: What sort of research did you do for the role? How did it feel to have to pretend to be blind at first?

JA: I went to a blind orientation center in LA and one in New Mexico. I lived among people who were learning to deal with blindness. I learned how to read braille, walk with my cane, label everything in the house. Just sort of learn how to exist as someone who has blindness. I also spent time with a girl who's

been blind since she was two. She's a vocal artist. She's in her late twenties, speaks three different languages, travels around Europe by herself, travels around the States by herself, lives by herself, goes to Boston University, converts all of her textbooks to Braille. So she's really my inspiration because she was so self-sufficient and so independent. I never knew anyone who was blind. And certainly any connotations I had with people who are blind in that they can't be self-sufficient or live like anybody else were just

thrown out the window because she was quite extraordinary.

Wesleyan: I remember the Hong Kong version of *The Eye* to be very, very original. And with the remake our American audience is going to be treated to a similar experience.

JA: It is. It's definitely catered to American audience, the more Western way of thinking about ghosts, you know. You're familiar with the Eastern way of making ghost stories and these horror movies. It's definitely more part of a culture that is more accepting of spirits and mysticism. They just have a different mentality about it. And in Western culture people think you're absolutely nuts if you believe in ghosts or if you see ghosts and yeah, you're basically going insane. And so we dealt with the ghosts in this film similar to that.

News-Letter: Continuing in that vein, do you think this sort



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of transition between the two cultures that there could have been anything lost to the American audience that the Hong Kong audience would have had in the original?

JA: The Hong Kong version was more bitter than sweet in the end. And ours was definitely bittersweet, without giving anything away. But in the [original's] ending, people kind of didn't think she was as nuts — a few people were on her side and went for the ride. And in our version, you know, absolutely no one believed her. And everyone thinks she's completely lost it. So we're really playing up the insanity.

MIT: Hi, Jessica. What do you think that your fans can expect from you in this role as far as your maturity and growth as an actress?

JA: I think a lot of people have seen me primarily in popcorn movies. And mind you,

this one is as well but this one is a more complex character. It's not as one dimensional and kind of weighty. She's definitely grounded and more of a reality and feels, I don't know, just not as glamorous. Or as glorified as the other characters that I've played.

Outlet Unknown: Hey, Jessica, congratulations again on the baby. And how do you think that's going to kind of affect your career down the road?

JA: I think I answered this before. But I don't know. I mean, I have to believe that when you have a child and you have someone that, you know, needs your time you kind of can't be self-interested anymore and you have to consider that any time you spend away from your child is invaluable. And so I think I'll just probably be a bit more choosy and not work for two years straight like I just did.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Insider's Scoop: Remote Islands

By SARAH SABSHON
Arts & Entertainment Editor

"It just came to me as I was falling asleep one night," said Colin Pate of the name of his Philadelphia-based band, Remote Islands. It's this abstract sense of fate that brands the music of Remote Islands—a hazy puzzle of interconnected tones and rhythms that just seem to fall into place. Colin Pate, the founder and only permanent member of the band, took some time from the East coast tour to talk to the News-Letter.

"At first it was just me making recordings. But then when this guy told me he wanted to put them out on an album I found some guys in town to play the songs live."

Although their MySpace page lists Dan Olson, Matt Santillo and Michael Bernardo, Remote Islands is, in essence, a one-man show. Pate arranges all the music, writes all the lyrics, plays many of the instruments himself, including the synthesizers, and then finds friends to play the rest.

Critics argue that perhaps Remote Islands' first album, *Smother Party* which came out in 2005, would have benefited from having a few more band members playing live on the album. Pate, however, defends his decisions.

"Maybe that's true but there's no way to know. Though I should say that a good 75 percent of the instruments are played by human hands. 'Luxury Liner,' 'Constantly Changing' and 'Me and My Knife' are completely real instruments." Needless to say, these tracks are some of the best on the album, perhaps due to the instrumentation or the simplicity (relatively speaking) of the



COURTESY OF COLIN PATE

The Philadelphia-based band Remote Islands brings its dreamlike sound to the Lo-Fi Social Club on Charles Street this week.

pieces.

For Pate, it seems that the instrumental loneliness plays thematically into the rest of the album, which reflects a feeling of isolation that Pate felt as a southern boy living up north. This feeling of being overwhelmed can perhaps account for the "busyness" of Remote Islands' many layered songs. *Smother Party* has the air of a studied, personal endeavor. At first listen, the album is fuzzy, intricate and difficult to navigate. Certain songs require numerous hits of the repeat button in order to fully comprehend their meanings.

"I'm still surprised that people think it is that busy ... With *Smother Party* I was really trying to give people a new surprise at every turn while still having an

album of definite songs. I think the melodic approach followed the standard sort of thing, but it was combining standards. Often times when I try to record something based on an idea or quality or emotion I'm trying to get across I'm not really able to do it completely."

Unfortunately, sometimes Pate's intentions get lost in the songs. However, the dream-like quality of Remote Islands' pieces and their seemingly well-thought arrangements keep the listener interested. But Pate insists that although the basics are planned ahead of time, most of the finishing touches are really just trial and error.

"Whatever I think that song needs it gets ... But luckily I have very little [resources] at my dis-

posal most of the time so my choices are limited. I have no idea how someone with a battalion of instruments, recording people, money and musical knowledge knows when to say when."

But it looks like Pate might be having that difficulty in the near future. The band received quite a bit of press over their cover of Neil Young's "Philadelphia," a song that became popular as the Oscar-nominated, tear-jerking soundtrack to Jonathan Demme's 1993 film of the same name. Pate's decision to cover the song mostly had a lot to do with his connection to the city and not a desire to follow in Young's footsteps.

"Living in Philadelphia certainly had something to do with it. I love the song but hate the schmaltzy early-'90s production. It sounds like R. Kelly produced it. That's not a knock to R. Kelly or anything, but don't think that cavernous grand piano, drum machine and canned strings played to the best interest of that song. I thought it would've been perfect with just Neil and his pump organ so that's what I tried to go for. But I guess a version like that wouldn't have gotten an Oscar nod." Bitter much?

But regardless of how Pate feels about the music business, and he certainly has strong opinions, Remote Islands are planning to come out with a second album that is expected sometime in the next few months. Pate admits that the *Smother Party* was an amateur endeavor.

"Maybe I was a little naive when I was making the first album. There are a lot of songs that I recorded that didn't make it. Like a whole other album's worth. At the time I wanted to have a large pool of songs to pick from because I wasn't confident in working with just 12 to 14 songs. *Smother Party* could've been called *Contingency*. About 25 songs were mixed, and it was a very long, insane process. I should've just decided which were the 12 to 14 best songs and went with it. That's what I'm doing this time. We only finished what could possibly fit in a 40-minute album."

Baltimore, however, will get the chance to be the beneficiaries of Remote Islands' excess songs this Friday night at the Lo-Fi Social Club. Live, Pate describes their sound as an "intertwining, fingerpicking thing," something quite different from their recorded music, but this seems characteristic of Pate's sound. Even *Smother Party* doesn't seem to have a unifying factor, which in some ways, makes Remote Islands so different and fascinating.

"When you're younger it's exciting to define yourself through what you like ... [but] I don't want people to have too many opinions about the music I make before they even hear it."

But Pate reveals that simpler things have influenced his music, such as, "growing up in a medium-sized southern city, Philadelphia and American history, my neuroses. My musical limitations both technical and financial are pretty influential."

While the influences might be simple, Remote Islands' intelligent sound is not.

Remote Islands will perform with *A Sunny Day in Glasgow*, *Avec* and *Karmella's Game* on Friday, Feb. 1 at the Lo-Fi Social Club at 8:45 p.m.

"Smart rap" defines Lupe Fiasco in Baltimore

By FARAH QURESHI
News-Letter Staff Writer

For the most part, hype is a musician's worst enemy. To live up to people's high expectations is almost always impossible. Unless, of course, you are Lupe Fiasco, in which case you don't just live up to the hype, you exceed it by leaps and bounds.

While it's no secret that Fiasco is known to put on one of the best live shows in the industry, there is no way of truly understanding what that means until you're dancing with the crowd, engulfed by the sounds of his band mingling with the voices of hundreds of people shouting his lyrics and witnessing with your own two eyes his infectious, unwavering energy as he dances across the stage, a silly grin plastered across his face.

"The Lupe Fiasco Show" — as he so affectionately dubbed it — came to Sonar this past Sunday night, and nearly half an hour before doors opened the line had already wrapped around the block. From stereotypical hipsters to self-proclaimed gangsters, countless fans waited faithfully in the cold, all eager to see the critically acclaimed hip-hop star in this intimate venue.

His show fused hip hop with soul, rock and poetry into one huge dance party. Through his music, Fiasco has worked to break down stereotypes and reclaim hip hop from what has dominated popular music today. If anything, his concert this past Sunday proved that he has succeeded. This genre started as a movement, and when you see Lupe Fiasco live, regardless of your race, ethnicity, culture or creed, you feel like you are a part of something bigger than yourself. You are a part of a community that is both concerned about their future and celebrating their present.

By the time Fiasco — flanked by his entourage of friends and fellow First and Fifteen artists — finally took the stage it was nearing 11 p.m. and the sold-out crowd, cramped shoulder to sweaty shoulder, boomed. With a full band supporting him, he took the stage in a storm of cheers and a sea of digital cameras and phones. As he fed off the crowd's energy and the crowd fed off of his, he launched seamlessly into "Real," his voice completely overpowered by the audience singing with him.

The first half of the show — dedicated entirely to his early

work, including nearly all the tracks off of his debut release, *Lupe Fiasco's Food and Liquor* — was a rollercoaster ride. At the end of each fast-paced, high-energy song, the audience was lulled into an intimate repartee between themselves and Fiasco. The lights dimmed leaving a single spotlight on him as he swaggered across the stage, speaking in his smooth Chicago drawl, "and remember that time when..." He created a narrative, recollecting the start of a love affair that had grown between himself and his fans; a story that blurred the boundaries between his life, his music and the crowd full of strangers he was performing to. Though obviously a deliberate show, it felt so natural it was almost as though you yourself were walking through west side of Chicago with him, your memories commingling with his and culminating in each mammoth song.

Not only is Lupe Fiasco one of the most intelligent, engaging artists in hip hop today, he has a captivating and boyish charisma about him. This couldn't have been any more apparent than when he stopped mid-song, asked for the house lights to be turned on, pointed to a guy in the audience and proclaimed, "I caught you yawning!" To ensure that his audience was being "thoroughly entertained," he dug deep into his songbook and dedicated an impromptu minute of "Switch" to his sleepy fan before getting back into "Hurt Me Soul."

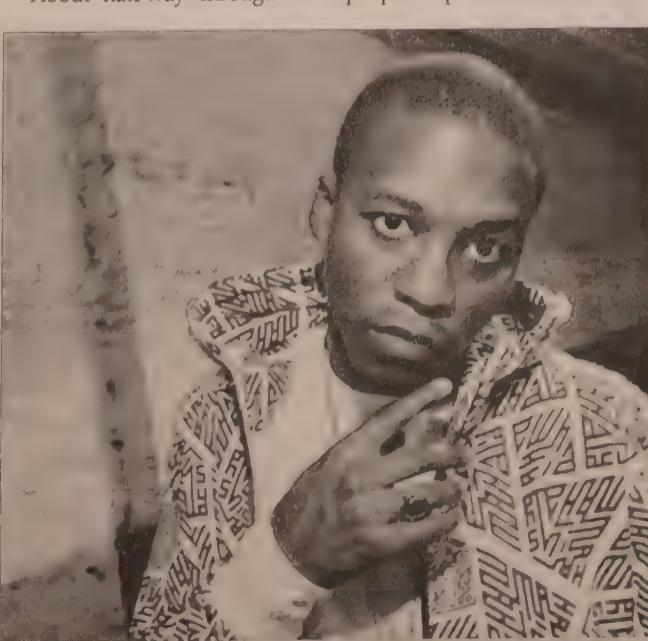
About half-way through his

set, there was a brief intermission, after which Fiasco came back onto the dark stage, alone and flooded in a green spotlight. "Come, these are the tales of The Cool, guaranteed to go and make you fail from your school and seek unholly grails like a fool." The crowd chanted along with him in a sort of hushed reverence as he recited the main track off his latest release, *The Cool*. It wasn't long, though, before the energy once again escalated with the beats of songs like "Hi-Definition" and "Little Weapon."

Nearly two hours after its start, his set closed out with an extended jam session growing out of a sweeping rendition of "Superstar" that once again showcased Matt Santos's incredible vocals.

As everyone came back onto the stage and joined him, it was nearly impossible to ignore what genuine, unbridled fun him and his friends were having on stage. His smiles and energy were contagious and even after standing for almost six hours straight, the crowd was dancing with him and thoroughly disappointed to see him go.

Lupe Fiasco is a breath of fresh air in a genre overwhelmingly dominated by unoriginal, repetitive odes to sex, drugs and money. He is living reminder of the power of hip hop; its ability to inspire and educate, to challenge the status quo and give young people a reason to care about their society. He is intelligent, charming and a musician in every respect. Believe the hype, people. Lupe Fiasco's for real.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.LUPEFIASCO.COM

Lupe Fiasco gives an inspirational performance in one of Sonar's biggest shows.

New Vibrations

Vampire Weekend
Vampire Weekend
Beggars XI Recording
Jan. 29, 2008



tinctively accessible sound. Koenig's guitar comes in clean and refreshing in an era of fuzzy indie rock, but he is skilled enough that he cannot be dismissed as a musician. In fact, the entire band does well in this department, and percussionist Chris Tomson especially stands out, giving the band what has become one of its most standout features: the heavy influence of African percussion. The off-continent drums blend into the rest of the music seamlessly, so one can forget that the percussion is novel and instead appreciate the well-fused sound.

Before the album, the single "Cape Cod Kwassa Kwassa," was named one of *Rolling Stone's* 100 best of 2007. Now, gently remastered for the album, it remains a standout track, with a clear, deep bass and catchy guitar lick.

Also notable is "Mansard Roof," which those with fancy-pants satellite radios may have already heard *ad nauseum* on the cool-kid stations.

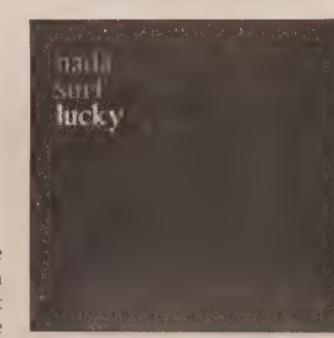
There are a few tracks on here that maybe could have been relegated to a B-side, but then, most albums have those tracks. In all, all of the tracks are worth hearing. The wonder of this album produced by a bunch of guys I would probably hate — keeps me coming back for more.

Despite the criticism Vampire Weekend gets, this album is one worth listening to if you can put the ramblings of overenthusiastic bloggers aside. If you can appreciate some quality pop-rock for its own sake, give Vampire Weekend a try.

Not that I criticize their dis-

— John Kernan

Lucky
Nada Surf
Barsuk
Feb. 5, 2008



Nada Surf is one of those bands whose greatest strength is, sadly, also their greatest weakness. This could not have been any more obvious than with their latest release, *Lucky*, due to hit stores on Feb. 5.

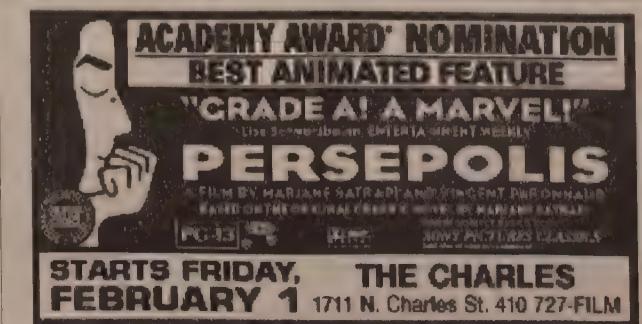
This indie pop trio from Brooklyn has put out a new album full of exactly what Nada Surf fans love most about their music: fun and upbeat power pop. Matthew Caws's warm and inviting tones immediately draw you in with their youthful glow. He carries with him an incredible air of nostalgia, and as the album opens with his lofty voice crooning, "what you are now, we were once," you are immediately reminded of the appeal of their previous works.

Much like their others, this album is full of catchy hooks and sunny bridges, and is a solid indie pop record. However, three years after 2005's *The Weight is a Gift*, an expectation for something more — something innovative — leaves the listener not entirely satisfied.

The band has already proved, time and time again, that they can write good songs and memorable music. What they have yet to show is that they can push their limits and challenge themselves as artists. So while this is a strong effort and certainly a fun listen, it shows that they have once again taken the safe road.

So if you are a fan of their previous work or just like cheery, feel-good indie rock music, you will by no means be disappointed with this record.

— Farah Qureshi



Over Her Dead Body: mindless entertainment

By JOHN KERNAN
Arts & Entertainment Editor

From the very opening scene of *Over Her Dead Body*, one realizes that it is not to be a thinking man's movie. Kate (Eva Longoria) is a controlling bride on her wedding day, ordering staff about rather annoyingly. This way, we don't feel quite as bad when she is killed hours before the ceremony. Henry (Paul Rudd), the groom, of course has the misfortune of having his fiancée die on him. Even more bothersome, her ghost will meddle in his dating life, believing her "unfinished business" is to protect Henry from other women. As the ice angel falls to crush the skull of our doomed heroine-turned-antagonist, her face can be described only as cartoonish — presumably to soften the blow of the potentially grisly image.

We are reintroduced to the story a year later. Henry is yet despondent over Kate's death, neither dating nor socializing. He is eventually convinced to go to see "psychic" Ashley (Lake Bell). Ashley is more or less a hack, but a well-intentioned hack, as she only reports things she believes she has actually "heard." Unfortunately for Ashley, she ends up being able to actually see Kate in her undead form. Kate, of course, has the sole mission of preventing Ashley and Henry from getting together. Hilarity, no doubt, ensues.

The movie has all the subtlety and power to move as you would expect from any other romantic comedy. The plot was painfully predictable. I won't spoil the ending, but, dear reader, you already know it and the lesson you will learn. Kate is easy to hate and one-dimensional throughout the movie, until the very end when she realizes some truths about love and life. All the rappings of a somewhat enjoyable, if mindless date movie. What else does one



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expect from a romantic comedy?

Here is something one does not expect: fart jokes. Rather, one long, drawn-out, fart-joke scene, lasting a full minute and a half, where the audio is nothing but — you guessed it. Also unnecessary is the cover-your-face-awkward sex scene, when Ashley can see Kate watching her — but doesn't want Henry to know she is there.

Oddly enough, the audience did seem to enjoy the movie immensely. Both aforementioned scenes had most of the viewers in stitches, why cannot be guessed. There were certainly clever lines, and one twist that I did not see coming. Perhaps those who come to the movie expecting little are more apt to get something out of it.

One major flaw of this movie that I could not get past the entire time was the relationship between

Kate and Henry. Kate is controlling, overbearing and annoying. Henry is a soft-spoken, clever veterinarian who hits it off particularly well with Ashley the bumbling-but-adorable psychic/caterer. How Henry ever came to be engaged to Kate is beyond me. In fact, Kate never seems to be concerned with Henry at all, even from the grave. Kate cares only about foiling Ashley in her plans to be with "her man." How could Henry miss a woman so much who cared for him so little? And why, furthermore, is Kate's "unfinished business" to get these two together — something that probably would have happened more easily without her meddling?

In another scene, the first of

Kate's "hauntings" of Ashley,

Kate pretends to be a client possessed by a demonic spirit, warning Ashley to stay away. In what could have been an impressive

scene to scare Ashley, the entire thing was played off as comical. Eva Longoria, unsurprisingly, cannot emulate the voice of a possessed spirit very well. This could have been corrected easily by overdubbing a demonic voice, which was done eventually, but it still retained much of Longoria's vocal character and thus remained unconvincing.

Finally, the movie injects some of the writers' lowbrow philosophy into the mix, apparently to appeal to a non-denominationally religious public. Ashley declares that not believing in heaven makes for a "sad and hopeless life," a bit of a shock to those who might not quite believe in the pearly-gates version of heaven.

In any case, I do not claim that I sat stony-faced through this movie. It was not a terrible waste of time, though I would not pay to see it. But I would understand if someone else did.

Over Her Dead Body opens in theaters Feb. 1.

Wes Craven discusses his years at Hopkins

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3
century and late 19th century..." Craven said. "Coleman ... had a wonderful depth of knowledge, and the students were from all over the country and weren't Christian so, you know, it was my first time exposed to somebody who was different, so it just opened my eyes to the world."

After graduating he got a job selling rare coins from a Baltimore department store before the death of an English professor in Pennsylvania led to his surprise hiring.

"I got a call — 'Can you come tomorrow?' — and I literally got on a flight and taught classes the next day."

After years of teaching and little success getting published, Craven decided to move to New York and try his hand in the film business. Before coming to Hopkins, because of his religious upbringing, he had seen few films and consequently never thought of going into the industry. The first glimpse of a possible nascent talent in the field came when Coleman told him his novel "would make a terrific movie" calling it extremely "visual."

"I took that as a sign that I wasn't a good writer. I took everything negative. In those days, I was sure I was a total sham," Craven said. "That's the only indication that I had a talent that I didn't know about."

Financial difficulties while following this dream lead to a string of jobs ranging from high school teacher to cab driver, but eventually landed Craven in a motion picture post-production house as a messenger. With a Master's degree, he quickly moved up the ranks but was eventually fired for making a "stupid" mistake, splicing a print A-C-B instead of A-B-C. Still, he had picked up skills that would come in handy down the road.

Years earlier, while teaching, he had made a short film with some students, but he admits some students, but he admits they were extremely amateurish.

"None of us knew what we were doing," he said. "Nothing about technique. We literally spliced it with scotch tape and scissors, and we didn't know how to put a soundtrack with the picture so we just had a tape-re-

corder playing."

The skills he learned while working in post-production meant he could get other jobs in film. In 1972 *The Last House on the Left* came out, a movie he had written and directed. It was so gruesome for the time that those involved had to initially fake an "R" rating to bring it to theaters after the shocked ratings board wouldn't even give it that, according to Craven. Perhaps for that very reason, the auspicious film led to years of success in horror for Craven, as well as a more recent expansion into other genres.

In 1999, he directed *Music of the Heart*, a drama that didn't make a fortune but got its fair share of critical acclaim. (*The New York Times* wrote: "...an affirmation of the power of music to provide beauty, pleasure and a sense of accomplishment. Not a bad reason for Mr. Craven to have sidelined the claws and hatchets this time.")

Craven's current project — which may eventually be titled 25/8 after a line in the film about

the Devil working 24/7 but God working 25/8 — bears some similarities to *Noah's Ark: The Diaries of a Madman*, the unpublished novel he wrote while at Hopkins.

"[It's similar] in the sense that it has a character that sort of is an amalgam of other characters," he said, going on to reminisce about his time in the Writing Seminars program.

"Hopkins was an enormously significant year in my life," Craven said. "It was my entrance to the world at large."

He added, "Baltimore is one of the best places to be for spring that I could remember — I just remember that whole place just came into blossom. Everywhere you walked there was the smell of flowers ... which, for somebody who'd lived in the north, was really a unique experience."

What about Baltimore winters? "I can't remember the winter there at all," he said, sounding a bit surprised at the forgotten season. Perhaps an unconscious inspiration for his 1985 film *Chiller*?



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Imagine Craven grading your IFP poem while he was a Writing Sem grad student.

Back-to-back shows hint at Dawson's dedication to fans

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

She started off with "Loose Lips," and having lost her set list she began taking requests from the audience. Requests for songs like "I Like Giants" and "My Rollercoaster" were met with some hesitation and humility. "All of those have lots of words," she squeaked, hoping that she wouldn't mess up. She didn't, and in the eyes of the audience, she couldn't.

Everyone

remained reverently silent throughout each song, save for some laughter here and there at her famously

self-deprecating, stream-of-consciousness lyrics. Between songs she cracked jokes about messing up her two-chord songs and offered some anecdotes of her newfound fame. "Someone said to me today, without the slightest hint of irony, that I've been fighting the corporate world for too long and that it was time to just join it," she said with a laugh.

She also detailed the events of a

meeting with "the suits" and her expletive-filled response to their offer of a publishing deal. Her voice was soft and she looked somewhat uncomfortable, hoping that her fans would still love her anti-folk, punk-praising self even though she sold the songs that got them through

their darkest hours to one of the biggest movies this year.

As Dawson performed "Alphabutt" a song from her new album that is a series of children's songs inspired by her daughter, Panda, a devoted fan asked after her one-year-old. "She's taking a nap in the car," Dawson replied with a smile.

Dawson then remarked that the space they were in would be too small for her usual after-show group hug, which she calls a cinnamon roll (because of re-

semblance to one and also the delight of being at the center of it). It was clear from the disappointment of the audience, and also from the number of people who said they were going to both of her shows, that the fans still love her and her music and what her music does for people.



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Dawson, shown here with Adam Green, performed last week.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Astronomers find effect predicted by Einstein

By SAM OHMER
News-Letter Staff Writer

A recent chance sighting of one of the most interesting celestial phenomena that astronomers have ever observed has allowed scientists to learn more about the intriguing topics of dark matter, dark energy, the universe's geometry and galaxies far removed from our own cosmic backyard.

The event that has inspired such excitement is the first-ever sighting of double Einstein rings, which are a long-predicted result of Einstein's theory of relativity.

Einstein rings occur when two massive celestial objects, usually galaxies, fall into a direct line with Earth. Much like an eclipse in our solar system, the light coming from the more distant object is blocked by the nearer object.

If the middle object is particularly massive — a large galaxy or a dense black hole — something quite strange happens. Rather than blocking the distant light, the gravitational pull of the middle object will actually bend the incoming light.

From Earth, this event appears to astronomers as a kind of thin, bright doughnut or halo surrounding a totally dark doughnut hole. That is just a single Einstein ring event, however.

Scientists from NASA and Hopkins used the Sloan Lens Advanced Camera for Surveys (SLACS) to find a double Einstein ring. Instead of just two galaxies aligning with Earth, three galaxies have actually lined up perfectly to create this unbelievably rare event, which looks like two donuts, one within the other, surrounding a solitary donut hole.

Einstein rings form as a direct result of Einstein's theory of relativity. Einstein predicted that a large mass would curve or indent space-time, the fabric of the universe, which would subsequently



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.HUBBLESTIE.ORG
The double Einstein rings, seen above in a recent Hubble photograph, are the result of a rare alignment of three distant galaxies.

cause anything traveling through it — including light — to be bent. This phenomenon, predicted by Einstein over a century ago, is known as gravitational lensing.

Needless to say, the conditions necessary for such a spectacular event are rare and therefore interesting just to look at, but beyond the mere appearance of Einstein rings is a unique opportunity for astronomers to collect data on a variety of other cosmological phenomena.

For instance, scientists can use the bending of light to determine the relative sizes and

distances of the galaxies in question. The team that discovered the rings has accurately determined the mass of the middle galaxy to be one billion times as massive as our own. They have also calculated the approximate distribution of dark matter in that galaxy, which contributes to the lensing of the farther galaxy's light.

The team hopes for continuing good luck in spotting more Einstein rings in the future, which would help them to more accurately calculate the curvature of the universe itself as well as the

nature of the universe's matter and energy. They will need good luck, indeed, as the likelihood of seeing the improbable amazing double Einstein rings hovers at just about one in 10,000.

JHU study finds genetic risk factor for autism

By STEPHEN BEIGER
Science & Technology Editor

A team of scientists at the Hopkins Institute for Genetic Medicine has identified a potential genetic risk factor for autism, a devastating childhood brain disorder. The finding might help scientists to better understand the biological underpinnings of this condition.

A common variant in the gene, called *CNTNAP2*, increases the likelihood of developing autism. Around one-third of all individuals have this particular variant, a change of just one letter in the genetic code.

In most people the change does not affect health at all. But in a small number of people with autism, the same change can play a part in a complicated web of genetic and environmental causes that lead to autism.

It has long been known that autism runs in families, but specific genetic causes have been hard to pin down. As many as 80 to 90 percent of all autism cases may be genetic, so the search for genes related to the illness has long been a pressing concern.

The Hopkins researchers, led by Aravinda Chakravarti at the School of Medicine, analyzed the DNA of members of 78 families in which at least one child had autism.

Genetic samples were analyzed on microchips for over half a million small genetic markers that together comprise a snapshot of an individual's genetic makeup. By comparing the genotype at each of these markers, called SNPs, scientists can identify regions of DNA that are more commonly found in people with an illness than in the general population.

The gene the Hopkins group found, *CNTNAP2*, is part of a large family of proteins called neurexins which are responsible for connecting brain cells. Since autism arises in the developing brain, this genetic discovery could help scientists who are investigating the biology of the illness.

Interestingly, the variant was much more likely to be found in autistic boys than girls, and it was also much more likely to come from the mother than the father. This is consistent with the known inheritance patterns of autism, which affects boys over four times as often as girls.

The *CNTNAP2* variant increases the risk of developing autism but does not cause the disease on its own. Because this genetic variant is found in a large number of neurologically normal individuals as well, it is unlikely to be useful in predictive tests for autism.

Wind power explored as oil alternative

By TIFFANY NG
News-Letter Staff Writer

With the cost of oil recently hitting \$100 per barrel, alternative sources of energy are in great demand by the global population. At the current high rate of oil consumption and low rate of discovery, current estimates call for worldwide oil supplies to be exhausted within 50 years.

Researchers around the world, including at Hopkins, are feverishly exploring cleaner and more sustainable energy sources. Scientists are attempting to maximize the energy output and minimize the cost of a variety of approaches. One group at Hopkins is focusing on wind power.

Wind power has the potential to become an excellent source of renewable energy, with no carbon footprint, no possibility of wind depletion and a good energy output.

Many countries in Europe have already taken to using wind farms for power. Twenty percent of all electricity consumed in Denmark is wind-generated, and Great Britain hopes to light every home in the nation using wind turbines by 2020.

In the United States, about a quarter of the country's land area is suitable for wind power production, which would generate more than enough electricity to power the entire country.

Researchers at the Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering, led by Charles Meneveau, have been studying the interactions between wind turbines and the surrounding air and their subsequent effects on turbine efficiency and local weather.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.MNUS.COM
Turbines used to generate power on wind farms are usually several hundred feet tall.

Using a wind tunnel, Meneveau simulates actual wind conditions on a small scale, with currents passing through arrays of model airplane propellers. A smoke-like material is then mixed

with the air so the movement of the wind can be observed.

A laser generates pulses of light in quick succession, and a camera records the position of the particles during each flash. In this way, Meneveau can generate velocity vector diagrams that allow for highly detailed calculations of the energy carried by wind — the same energy harvested by power plants.

Based on such calculations, wind power can be implemented with greater efficiency, since the positioning of the turbines can be adjusted to obtain the maximum energy input.

Furthermore, Meneveau's research has demonstrated that clusters of wind turbines have the potential to affect local weather patterns, including humidity and temperature. This is an important issue if wind power becomes more widely used.

These findings have the potential to make wind power one of the most environmentally friendly and affordable sources of energy, curbing carbon emissions and making our planet a little greener.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.JHU.EDU
The model airplane kits used in the Hopkins wind tunnel are only a few inches tall.

Participate in a study at Johns Hopkins Center for Immunization Research and help put an end to Dengue Fever.

Without ever leaving Baltimore, you can help save lives all over the world. Today, Dengue is a leading cause of death in children in many parts of the world. No vaccine exists, but if you are between 18 and 50 years old, you could help change that. The study will take about twenty hours over several visits and you'll be paid for your time.

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Center for Immunization Research

Principal Investigator: Karen Charron, MPH

Approved by CHR on September 5, 2007 CHR# H.22.04.02.19.A2

Natural mechanism suppresses cancer gene

By BEN KALLMAN
News-Letter Staff Writer

Naturally occurring strands of a special type of RNA may silence cancer-suppressing genes, according to a report by Hopkins scientists published this month in *Nature*. Once turned off, the genes — called tumor suppressor genes (TSGs) — no longer keep cell growth in check, often resulting in the development of cancerous tumors.

Scientists have long known that some people are more likely than others to develop cancer based on their individual genetic make-ups. But that fact does not explain why only a few cells take the proverbial wrong turn, since every cell in the body contains the same DNA sequence.

The reason why only a handful of cells become cancerous has remained somewhat of a mystery, but some intriguing clues have surfaced, thanks in large part to the study of how non-genetic influences shape gene expression, a field called epigenetics.

Epigenetic modification allows cells to maintain different characteristics over the course of several

replications and divisions without actually changing any DNA sequences. This is especially important in development. Stem cells, for example, branch out into many different cell types despite the fact that they all possess the same unchanging genome.

By turning certain genes on or off (as the case may be) at different times, epigenetic changes determine which progenitors become liver cells and which become skin cells.

Nonetheless, not all epigenetic influence is good: switching genes on and off can lead to a host of diseases, including cancer, which is where the Hopkins researchers directed their attention.

There is a long and growing list of epigenetic processes, but the team, lead by Hengmi Cui of the School of Medicine, focused on gene silencing in particular. Even more specifically, they wanted to test the hypothesis that antisense RNA — a special type of nucleic acid, the group of macromolecules that function as a cell's genetic library — may be the culprit in the turning-off of certain TSGs in cancerous cells.

Antisense RNA are non-coding

RNA; that is, the information they carry never gets used in the stringing-together of amino acids to make protein (the final product of every gene).

In fact, antisense RNA actually inhibits gene translation. Most antisense RNA is complementary to other, functional strands of RNA called messenger RNA (mRNA). By binding to its complementary mRNA, the antisense variety can physically prevent any translation from taking place.

In the present case, blocking tumor-suppressing genes from making their protein products can lead to tumor growth.

The Hopkins team chose to study the role of a single antisense RNA in silencing a single TSG, dubbed p15, which had previously been linked to leukemia. They analyzed a strain of leukemia cells and found that the majority had notably increased levels of antisense p15 in addition to notably decreased levels of normal p15.

Other tests uncovered a fairly reliable, inverse relationship between antisense and normal p15 — solid evidence that antisense p15 was somehow turning off its normal p15 counterpart.

The researchers then inserted the gene for antisense p15 into a cell containing a normal p15 gene. Not surprisingly, much less normal p15 was produced in comparison to cells without the antisense gene. Chemically neutralizing the antisense RNA returned normal p15 levels to their original levels.

The team went even further: inspection of the DNA that made up the normal p15 gene showed that it was abnormally compacted and tightened into what geneticists call heterochromatin, a telltale sign of gene silencing.

Nonetheless, the precise biochemical processes by which antisense RNA shuts off genes remain a mystery. Still, the Hopkins team said, the presence of high levels of antisense RNA for tumor-suppressing genes may be used in the future as a marker of cancer risk.



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A computer model of an RNA molecule shows the classic nucleic acid structure.

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Tech News Briefs

be used in the hospital, and use of most latex in other products will cease.

The pervasive problems with latex in medicine have grown in recent years, with about 6 percent of the public and nearly 15 percent of healthcare workers having a latex allergy. Frequent contact with the natural rubber proteins found in latex has been shown to increase the chances of developing an allergy.

The allergic reactions to latex include decreased blood pressure, irregular heartbeat, swelling in the extremities and airway constriction. In severe cases, the anaphylactic shock resulting from a latex allergy can result in death. The new gloves that Hopkins will use are composed of the synthetic materials neoprene and polyisoprene. Nonsterile gloves made from these substances cost about the same as nonsterile latex gloves, while sterile neoprene and polyisoprene cost 30 to 50 percent more than the latex ones.

Hopkins, where the first rubber surgical gloves in the United States were introduced in 1894, is the first major medical institution to be deemed "latex safe."

Poultry workers have high risk of E. coli infection

A new study by Lance B. Price and his colleagues at the Bloomberg School of Public Health reports that poultry workers have 32 times greater odds of carrying an antibiotic-resistant strain of *E. coli* bacteria. Those studied were workers in the poultry industry and members of the community on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia.

Stool samples from the 49 participants were tested for various antibiotics, and the results showed that the 16 poultry workers were 32 times more likely than the 33 community members to carry a strain of *E. coli* that is resistant to the common antibiotic.

otic gentamicin. Of the 16 antimicrobials used in feeds produced for food animals, gentamicin is the most common. The findings of Price's study corroborate similar studies done in Europe.

Price is a member of the research faculty at the Hopkins School of Medicine's Division of Infectious Diseases in addition to acting as a scientific adviser to the School of Public Health's Center for Livable Future, which provided the majority of the funding for this research. Complete results of the study are available in December's *Environmental Health Perspectives*.

High school gym helps control weight later on

Researchers at the School of Public Health recently reported in the findings of a study showing that teens who have physical education at school are less likely to be overweight adults. Each day of physical education corresponds to a 5-percent decrease in the odds of being overweight.

The research team looked at 3,345 students in grades eight through 12 who were surveyed as part of the Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. This survey asked the teens about their physical education and extracurricular physical activity.

The Hopkins researchers measured the participants' height and weight five years after the initial survey. Teens participating in wheel-related activities, like rollerblading or biking, outside of school at least four times a week had the most decreased likelihood of being overweight later in life. The results of the study, written by Robert Wm. Blum, David Menschik, Saifuddin Ahmed and Miriam H. Alexander, are published in the January issue of *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine*.

— News briefs written by Alex Vockroth, Copy Editor



"I was able to land an internship at the architecture firm of Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott. The firm currently designs buildings throughout the country and even internationally. I am interested in 'green' building and SBRA makes this a priority."

Graphic and Web Design intern, 2007

YOUR NEWS-LETTER

Four fun, cheap Baltimore dates

By CHLOE MARK
News-Letter Staff Writer

If you are like me or what I would describe as the average Hopkins student, you probably consider the 20-minute stroll from MSE Library to the quaint village of Hampden an expedition. Sadly, college life at Hopkins seems to revolve around North Charles and St. Paul Streets. When thinking of something special to do for dinner we think of Chipotle with a Gotta Have It from Coldstone for dessert. From my perspective, I can hardly call this "living" in Baltimore. No less than a few miles outside of our brick and marble pathways lie dozens of interesting and fun activities that won't break the bank.

1. BMA with Dinner at Gertrude's on Tuesdays

This one might seem a little obvious, but you'd be amazed at how few Hopkins students have been to the BMA. This one isn't far, and it's free. If you're with a date and you want to impress you could probably splurge on some special exhibit, which generally run the price of \$15 (currently



FILE PHOTO

You don't have to dish out the dollars to be romantic. Try wandering through Hampden's interesting shops on the Avenue.

there's a Matisse exhibit open until Feb. 3). You can see the whole museum in less than two hours, but if you want to go to specific collections, I always find modern art to be the most engaging, there's also a wide variety of 19th century European, Asian, African and Native American art to be found. Weather permitting, you might also consider a stroll through the sculpture garden, which you have walked past over a hundred times on your way to class. After a look at the museum dinner at Gertrude's is a nice option. Often a rather expensive restaurant, on Tuesday night Gertrude's turns into Gertie's and offers expensive dishes for only \$10. However, be warned, Tuesdays at Gertrude's tend to be very busy, so the experience will not be as swank as on other nights and a reservation should be made.

Cost for two: about \$25 (with special exhibit \$55)

2. Hampden

Whether on a date or just in need of something to do on a sunny afternoon, Hampden is a charming and quaint neighborhood not 20 minutes' walk from campus. Just make your way up to 36th Street and you'll find yourself smack dab in the middle of the Avenue, the heart of Hampden life. With a wide variety of funky stores ranging from regular thrift to retro

antique to indie chic, Hampden contains all you need to be entertained for well over an afternoon. I should emphasize that one can enjoy Hampden without being a lover of shopping. The neighborhood contains an offbeat charm, which is at the same time distinctly Baltimorean. The people are friendly and stores are always producing new and funky things to tinker with. The Avenue also is home to some moderately priced restaurants, which contain within them all the charm of their surrounding home. The most notable one is probably Café Hon, where you are likely to find a group of women sitting in a corner, chatting nonchalantly, while sporting two-foot-long neon pink wigs which can be purchased at a small shop in the restaurant.

Cost: \$20

3. Sailing Lessons or Paddle Boats

One of the great things about Baltimore is the harbor. If you have already been down to the Inner Harbor and seen the shops, the aquarium and ESPN zone, it might be time to take a look at Baltimore from a different angle. Sailing through the harbor either by renting a boat or taking a lesson is a fun and new way to experience some of the charms of this city. Within Baltimore are dozens of sailing companies, which offer various packages from two or three night sails to simple sunset cruises. If you are already an experienced sailor, then what better way to show off your skills than to take your date sailing? Another option might be to rent a powerboat if you're not the most skilled helmsman. However, this is an expensive date at a price of \$30-50 per person. If like most college students you're not really comfortable spending that kind of money on a nice afternoon, paddleboats at the Inner Harbor are a nice alternative. Paddleboats are one of those wonderful things that are so silly and self-aware of that ridiculousness that they make for a perfect afternoon. The price of paddleboat rides at the Inner Harbor is around \$10-15.

4. Fells Point

For those of you who have only made it to Fells Point on Halloween, try heading out on a Saturday or a Sunday. It may seem kind of far, but it's worth the travel; there is also a water taxi running from the Inner Harbor to Fells Point. The charming historical area is home to shops and restaurants, which reflect a sense of Revolutionary America. There are historic walking tours, or if you just want to explore you might try a bike rental. At night one of my favorite activities are the ghost tours around the area. There are museums, boat rides, theaters, restaurants, shops, etc. The possibilities for an afternoon or evening are endless. Fells Point is a variable cultural powerhouse. It would be a shame to miss it before you graduate.

By JULIA DISCHELL
News-Letter Staff Writer

In my experience, college life means constantly being short on cash. It means living off of ramen noodles, downloading music and movies illegally, and hoping I still have enough Dining Dollars left to buy toothpaste. I in particular am especially short on money because I am only smart and not a genius and therefore am not granted any scholarships. What's a girl to do if she needs some pocket money? Well, there is always the option of an on-campus job. However, there are some issues with that. A lot of people want them, so it's not always easy to get the hours you want. In addition to that, I would personally find sitting at a desk, monitoring the game room and workout room in the terrace level of Wolman at 2 a.m. on a

Bring back your childhood easily!

By NATALIE BAER
News-Letter Staff Writer

* One tsp.
salt
* Two c.
milk chocolate
chips

Directions:
a. Preheat
the oven to 350
degrees F (175
degrees C).
Grease cookie
sheets.

b. In a large
bowl, cream
together the
butter fla-
vored short-
ening, brown
sugar and
white sugar
until light and
fluffy. Add the
eggs one at a
time, beating
well with each
addition, then
stir in the
vanilla. Combine
the flour, bak-
ing soda and
salt; gradually
stir them into
the creamed
mixture. Fi-
nally, fold in
the chocolate
chips. Drop
r o u n d e d
s p o o n f u l s
onto the prepared cookie sheets.

Draw the layout with the chalk — three single squares, one double square, two single squares, one double square, one single square. You can number the squares if you want. The two basic rules of hop scotch are 1) one foot in each square only, 2) hop over the square with the rock in it.

Throw a rock into the first square. Hop on one foot over the square with the rock in it. Land with two feet on the double squares. On the second turn, throw the rock into the second square, and so forth. The tricky part is staying on one foot when the rock is in one of the side-by-side squares.

2. Cookies: Mix up a batch of chocolate chip cookies or snickerdoodles, and make sure to lick the spoon! I remember those days of sneaking cookie batter against the "raw eggs aren't good for you" advice from my parents — which made the batter taste that much more delicious. Use this recipe for cookies from <http://www.allrecipes.com> for "absolutely the best chocolate chip cookies."

3. Ice cream cones: Ice cream always tasted so much better when it was on a cone. So the next time you go out to grab a pint of your favorite Ben and Jerry's flavor, grab a pack of cones. Or for the full experience, buy toppings or throw a kid-themed birthday party complete with paper birthday hats and ice cream cones.

4. Papier-mâché volcanoes: Feeling creative? Want to release a burst of childlike wonder? It was always amazing to see a papier-mâché volcano in action. For directions on how to make

Ingredients:

* One c. butter flavored shortening

* 3/4 c. white sugar

* 3/4 c. brown sugar

* Two eggs

* Two tsp. Mexican vanilla extract

* Two 1/4 c. all-purpose flour

* One tsp. baking soda



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Sprinkles, cookie bits and cherries make ice cream cones a quick and delicious way to bring back childhood memories.

one, head to the following Web site: http://www.ehow.com/how_2087490_make-papermache-volcano.html.

5. Disney sleepovers: Cozy up with movies like *The Little Mermaid* or *The Lion King*, a sleeping bag and a big bowl of popcorn.

6. Roller skating: Dig up an old pair of skates or rent some and go for a spin around campus, in your room or even at a roller rink.

7. Hide-and-seek: Remember hiding under the sink cabinet from the "seeker" for what seemed like hours? This game can be played anywhere and provides hours of fun.

8. Color-by-numbers: Oh, the miracles of a box of Crayola crayons and a color-by-number coloring book. You can even bring a coloring book to class or to the library to help you stay awake.

9. Freeze tag: For some great exercise and fun, grab some friends and head outside. Freeze tag is the same basic concept as regular tag, except you freeze when tapped instead of automatically being out. Best part? For those of you less ... talented in the ways of tag, you get second chances!

10. Visit the playground: Personally, the playground was my favorite place to go when I was young. There was a sandbox, slides, monkey bars and best of all, swings. Just be careful to wait your turn.

By JULIA DISCHELL
News-Letter Staff Writer

Saturday quite boring, but maybe that's just me. For those of you looking for something a little less boring and a little more lucrative, there is always the possibility of working off campus.

I work at a clothing store in Towson Town Center, and I can tell you that I make a lot more than you'd make working anywhere here. You meet a lot of interesting and diverse people

that you wouldn't meet at Hopkins. It's also great because you can get away from college for a while and be a part of the real world. My favorite reason to work at a retail store is the large discounts on the products that they'll usually give you. At my job, I get at least 50 percent off of everything.

Monitoring has its perks too, though. You don't have to talk to anyone and you can get your work done for school. However, that really teaches you nothing about what it's actually like to have a job.

Most careers involve interacting with people on a regular basis and working to please both your customers (or clients, or patients) and your boss. Working in retail has helped me to listen to people better and to understand the best ways to approach people. Of course, it also helps me know how to sell things to people, which can be quite a useful skill in many fields.

While working on-campus is convenient, it is not all that difficult to get to the mall. I don't have a car here in Baltimore, but the Collegetown shuttle is free and reliable. I always get to work on time when riding it and don't have to worry about using the sketchy MTA buses. I also get a lot of my work done in transit on the lighted buses and during my break.

I love working off-campus. It gives me a chance to get away from the stress of school and be myself. I feel like Hopkins can be a big rain cloud of misery, and this job gives me somewhere else to be. I love having friends not associated with the school that I can work and have fun with. My job has a very fun environment, and it's great for me to have a reason to go to the mall. What's even better is that now I have money to spend there.

Working off campus is a great alternative to Homewood jobs

By JULIA DISCHELL
News-Letter Staff Writer

In my experience, college life means constantly being short on cash. It means living off of ramen noodles, downloading music and movies illegally, and hoping I still have enough Dining Dollars left to buy toothpaste. I in particular am especially short on money because I am only smart and not a genius and therefore am not granted any scholarships. What's a girl to do if she needs some pocket money? Well, there is always the option of an on-campus job. However, there are some issues with that. A lot of people want them, so it's not always easy to get the hours you want. In addition to that, I would personally find sitting at a desk, monitoring the game room and workout room in the terrace level of Wolman at 2 a.m. on a



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CARTOONS, ETC.

your Horoscope

Aries: (March 21 - April 19) I can't stand it when my roommate hogs the television. He loves to watch surgery shows while I'm eating pasta.

Taurus: (April 20 - May 20) Need a job? Me, too. I've always wanted to be a sheep farmer, but after four years of college, I'm horribly underqualified.

Gemini: (May 21 - June 20) To make a good cake you have to infuse it with love and sprinkle rainbows of happiness across the top.

Cancer: (June 21 - July 22) Make partner at a law firm, and you get lots of money. Make a fart at dinner, and you make lots of enemies.

Leo: (July 23 - August 22) Sixty days is not a long time to finish your thesis. You might want to start working on that now. Just a thought.

Virgo: (August 23 - Sept. 22) Million Mom March is a statement against gun-toting Americans. Annie Get Your Gun Control March was too long.

Libra: (Sept. 23 - October 22) Dollars are touched by hundreds of different hands, making them the number one carrier of bird flu in America.

Scorpio: (October 23 - Nov. 21) By the time you read this you will be so confused about your horoscope fate that you will hopefully stop reading here!

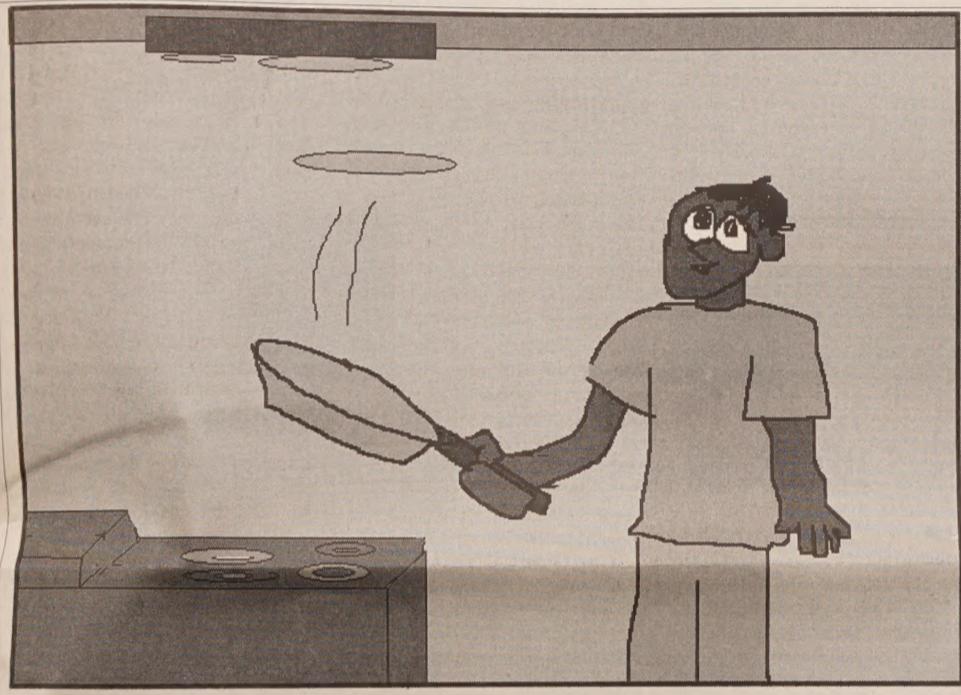
Sagittarius: (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) The threat of not graduating will haunt your dreams this week as you battle the registrar for control of your life.

Capricorn: (Dec. 22 - January 19) End the oppression of the undergraduates now! Give us back our Fridays! Give us back our freedom!

Aquarius: (January 20 - Feb. 18) Of all the cities in the country, Baltimore is by far the best, if only because a piss-stained, broken bench says so.

Pisces: (Feb. 19 - March 20) 2008 is such a hot year. It has curves in all the right places, it's even and it almost spells "boot" if you turn it upside down.

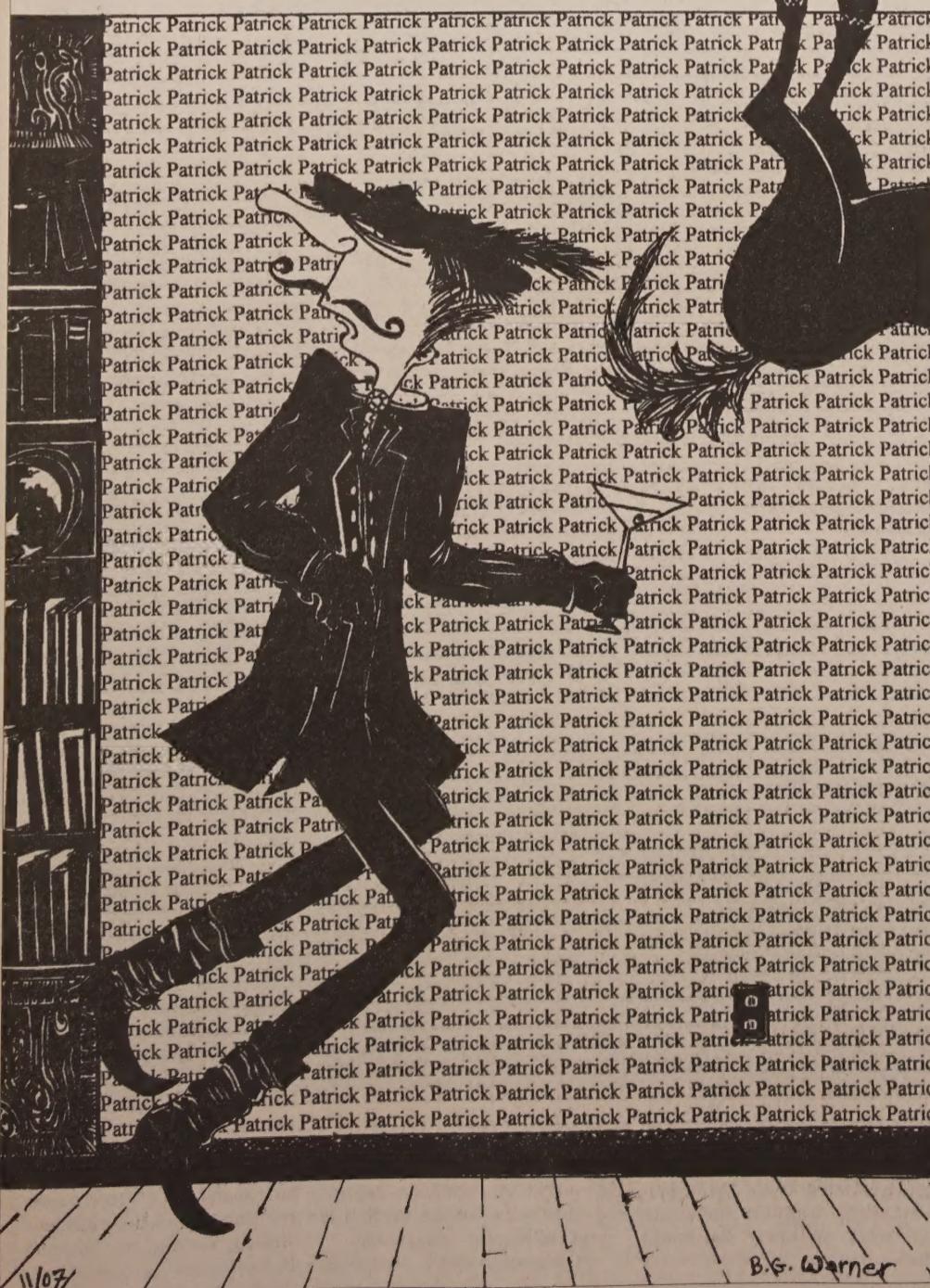
A Photo in Time



**I installed a griddle on my ceiling.
Now my pancakes are paint-free.**

by B.G. Warner

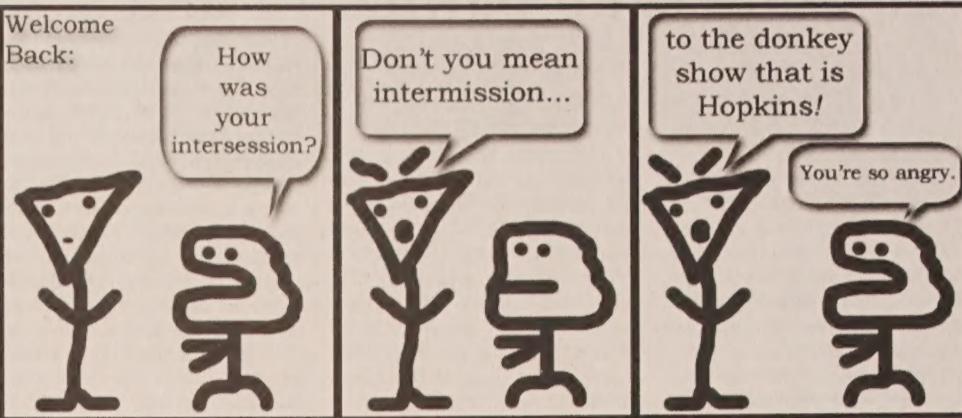
I WANT TO BELIEVE



by B.G. Warner

Comicali

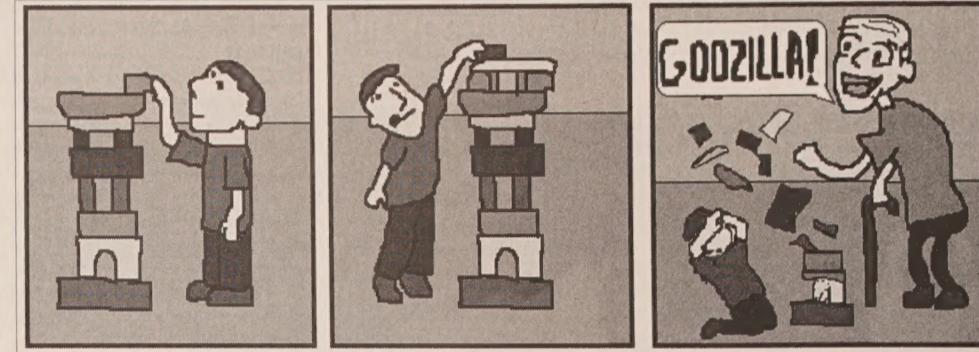
Welcome Back:



by Joe Micali

Wasted Ink

by Nate Min



Alphabetic Puzzle

Example:

SEND
+MORE
MONEY

S=9, E=5, N=1, D=7,
M=1, O=0, R=8

Solve:

HERE
+ SHE
COMES

I
+ BB
ILL

H=
E=
S=
C=
O=
M=
R=

I=
B=
L=

Minutes from the Student Council Graduation Speaker Subcommittee

Last week, while photocopying fliers for a screening of new indie flick, I saw this set of papers sticking conspicuously out of the garbage can in the OSI lounge of the Mattin Center. I find the contents not only shocking but embarrassing for our class, student body and University. I feel that I have a responsibility to share my findings, as many people will witness and be party to the surprising, upsetting discoveries I have made.

December 5, 2007

7:00 p.m.: All members present.

7:03: Motion to close the meeting. Kim seconds. Unanimous vote.

7:05: Committee president begins open discussion.

7:30: Open discussion closed.

Initial list of possible speakers is:

Kofi Annan
Alan Greenspan
Queen Noor

Conan O'Brien
Barack Obama
His Holiness the Dalai Lama

J.D. Salinger

7:38: Hotlines for Mr. Annan, O'Brien and Lama are all busy. A formal message was posted on Mr. Obama's Facebook group.

7:45: Queen Noor is unavailable. After some discussion J.D. Salinger agrees but requests compensation; is removed from the list.

8:00 p.m.: Motion to revise list.

8:02: Kim seconds motion to revise list.

8:30: New list of possible speakers reads:

Alan Greenspan

Kurt Vonnegut

Rachael Ray

Chris Matthews

Dr. Phil

8:35: Discrepancy arises over Mr. Vonnegut's life status.

8:37: Motion to consult Wikipedia.

8:38: Amit seconds motion.

Unanimous agreement.

8:40: Mr. Vonnegut is removed from list.

9:00 p.m.: Mr. Greenspan will be out of the country. Mr. Matthews and Dr. Phil taping respective television programs. Cracker.

endorsement-related conflict of interests with Aramark will prevent Ms. Ray from speaking.

9:02: Committee President expresses frustration, brief open discussion follows.

9:03: Committee President introduces initiative to procure refreshments. Committee chair allocates \$35 for the purchase of plastic cups, various beverages and various beverage enhancers vis-à-vis aforementioned beverages. Ice is included in budget.

9:05: Dave appointed chairman of the Committee to Procure Refreshments.

9:07: Motion to agree that the girl who played Alex Mack was also in *Never Been Kissed*.

10:16: 5-2 vote in favor of agreeing that Alex Mack was in *Never Been Kissed*.

10:20: Motion for more drinks. Motion passed.

10:21: Dave's mom is busy with Dave's dad, so she can't speak at graduation.

10:23: Motion to recess for bathroom breaks.

11:10 p.m.: After brief recess, meeting resumes.

NEVER O'CLOCK: THE GIRL TAKING NOTES IS A DOUCHE!!!! DON'T BELIEVE HER!

11:06: Control of computer regained.

11:29 MOTION TO DECLARE THAT I'M NOT A DOUCHE AND THE COMMITTEE PRESIDENT IS ILLITERATE. MOTION PASSES

11:10: A party foul has been committed. There has been a spill on the table! We need to clean it!

-Amit removes old MSE poster from committee meeting room door. Poster approved for table weipe uses.

Table is wiped.
NEW LIST DISCOVERED!

Christopher Hitchens,
David Simon,
Martin O'Malley,
Danny Glover,
Rory Kennedy,
Bill Nye the Science Guy,

The Capitol Steps,

Edward James Olmos, sponsored by Milton S. Eisenhower

speaker series

-Motion that Bill Nye could do experiments while he talks, light podium on fire and put it out with his eyes. might be magical. Could make diplomas from recycled cups and napkins, which would be green. Can talk to animals?

11:30: Wiki consulted, Bill Nye cannot speak to animals.

11:35: No one wants to call anyone except Danny Glover and he won't pick up. Even though we say we are Mel Gibson.

11:39: Motion to confirm Bill Nye as graduation speaker and performer with scientific apparatus. Unanimous vote to approve William P. Nye as grad speaker.

11:40: Motion to make a fourth draft of the list. Motion passes.

11:45: Motion to remove the Purell guy from the list because Denise is the only person who thinks it's a good idea. Motion passes 6-1 with Denise dissenting.

11:50: Motion to make a fifth draft of the list. Motion passes.

11:55: Motion to make a sixth draft of the list. Motion passes.

12:00: Motion to make a seventh draft of the list. Motion passes.

12:05: Motion to make a eighth draft of the list. Motion passes.

12:10: Motion to make a ninth draft of the list. Motion passes.

12:15: Motion to make a tenth draft of the list. Motion passes.

12:20: Motion to make a eleventh draft of the list. Motion passes.

12:25: Motion to make a twelfth draft of the list. Motion passes.

12:30: Motion to make a thirteenth draft of the list. Motion passes.

12:35: Motion to make a fourteenth draft of the list. Motion passes.

12:40: Motion to make a fifteenth draft of the list. Motion passes.

12:45: Motion to make a sixteenth draft of the list. Motion passes.

12:50: Motion to make a seventeenth draft of the list. Motion passes.

12:55: Motion to make a eighteenth draft of the list. Motion passes.

1:00: Motion to make a nineteenth draft of the list. Motion passes.

1:05: Motion to make a twentieth draft of the list. Motion passes.

1:10: Motion to make a twenty-first draft of the list. Motion passes.

1:15: Motion to make a twenty-second draft of the list. Motion passes.

1:20: Motion to make a twenty-third draft of the list. Motion passes.

1:25: Motion to make a twenty-fourth draft of the list. Motion passes.

1:30: Motion to make a twenty-fifth draft of the list. Motion passes.

1:35: Motion to make a twenty-sixth draft of the list. Motion passes.

1:40: Motion to make a twenty-seventh draft of the list. Motion passes.

1:45: Motion to make a twenty-eighth draft of the list. Motion passes.

1:50: Motion to make a twenty-ninth draft of the list. Motion passes.

1:55: Motion to make a thirtieth draft of the list. Motion passes.

2:00: Motion to make a thirty-first draft of the list. Motion passes.

2:05: Motion to make a thirty-second draft of the list. Motion passes.

2:10: Motion to make a thirty-third draft of the list. Motion passes.

2:15: Motion to make a thirty-fourth draft of the list. Motion passes.

2:20: Motion to make a thirty-fifth draft of the list. Motion passes.

2:25: Motion to make a thirty-sixth draft of the list. Motion passes.

2:30: Motion to make a thirty-seventh draft of the list. Motion passes.

2:35: Motion to make a thirty-eighth draft of the list. Motion passes.

2:40: Motion to make a thirty-ninth draft of the list. Motion passes.

2:45: Motion to make a fortieth draft of the list. Motion passes.

2:50: Motion to make a fortieth-first draft of the list. Motion passes.

2:55: Motion to make a fortieth-second draft of the list. Motion passes.

3:00: Motion to make a fortieth-third draft of the list. Motion passes.

3:05: Motion to make a fortieth-fourth draft of the list. Motion passes.

3:10: Motion to make a fortieth-fifth draft of the list. Motion passes.

3:15: Motion to make a fortieth-sixth draft of the list. Motion passes.

3:20: Motion to make a fortieth-seventh draft of the list. Motion passes.

3:25: Motion to make a fortieth-eighth draft of the list. Motion passes.

3:30: Motion to make a fortieth-ninth draft of the list. Motion passes.

3:35: Motion to make a fortieth-tenth draft of the list. Motion passes.

3:40: Motion to make a fortieth-eleventh draft of the list. Motion passes.

3:45: Motion to make a fortieth-twelfth draft of the list. Motion passes.

3:50: Motion to make a fortieth-thirteenth draft of the list. Motion passes.

3:55: Motion to make a fortieth-fourteenth draft of the list. Motion passes.

4:00: Motion to make a fortieth-fifteenth draft of the list. Motion passes.

4:05: Motion to make a fortieth-sixteenth draft of the list. Motion passes.

4:10: Motion to make a fortieth-seventeenth draft of the list. Motion passes.

4:15: Motion to make a fortieth-eighteenth draft of the list. Motion passes.

Wrestling pins down another good weekend

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B12

"I think we can do really well; I think we could actually win if we just pull everything together and wrestle our best, keep training really hard and keep our heads in the right state of mind. I think we have a shot this year."

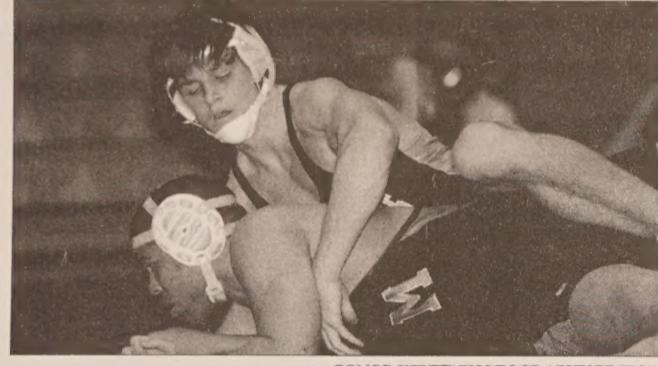
"This is the heart of our season," Schmidt said. "It's a really big time that we're all excited for, and we've been training like we're getting prepared for that."

"The team is definitely gaining momentum every single day in the wrestling room," Kauffman said. "The team appears to be finally healthy and ready to go for the stretch run. If everyone on our team wrestles up to their ability for the Conference Cham-

pionship, I believe we should win conference. Our team is solid from top to bottom so a conference championship is in reach."

The loss to Ursinus was definitely a stumbling block in the Jays' goal of a conference championship, but Hopkins is a young team, with an unprecedented desire and ability to win. The Jays have four more matches after the last quad match, including the conference home match against McDaniel last night (late), before the Centennial Conference Tournament at Muhlenberg.

Hopkins hits the mats against Washington and Lee on Saturday in the Goldfarb Gymnasium. The match is at 7:30 p.m.



CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Sophomore 165-pounder Patrick Stanley works to throw legs in on his opponent.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

BRITNI LONESOME, WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

By ERIC GOODMAN
News-Letter Staff Writer

Saturday night:

The Hopkins women have displayed a stunning comeback against Centennial Conference rival Dickinson. Hopkins trailed by as many as 11 points midway through the second half, but a Blue Jay three-pointer began the team's unstoppable momentum. Hopkins went on an 18-4 run, and with a one point lead with 2:53 left to play,

Hopkins scored six more points, three by sophomore starting point guard Britni Lonesome, to take a six-point lead. This margin dwindled, however, and a Dickinson shoots a layup with eleven seconds left tied the game at 60 apiece.

Hopkins would have the ball for the last shot. The cool, calm and collected Britni Lonesome was a perfect candidate for the ball. With time running out, Lonesome takes the inbounds pass and dribbles across half court with mere seconds left on the clock. She pauses, holding the results of the game in her hands.

If you got to know her, you would learn that Britni Lonesome was born and bred to be a student athlete at Hopkins.

Her father, Melvin Mathis, was a standout college basketball player at Drake University in Iowa, where he was a three-time All-Mid Valley Conference

selection and now stands as the school's all time rebounding leader and second all-time scorer. His daughter credits him as a major influence.

He basically taught me everything I know. He was a great player and I admire his game, so I listen to everything he tells me because he knows what he's talking about. During the summer, we would go to different courts and work out, and play one-on-one. I beat him, of course."

Lonesome is also a local standout from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. At Poly, she served as captain of the basketball team in her junior and senior years in addition to playing softball.

Academically, Lonesome boasts something in high school that many current Hopkins students cannot. In high school she was set up with researchers at a Hopkins engineering lab who were developing a more effective drug delivery system to tuberculosis patients in underdeveloped countries.

Lonesome excelled in this high pressure research assignment and (her teammates called her "the engineer") received national attention (Google "Britni Lonesome+JHU," and you'll see what I mean) and several chemistry awards, including a first-place award from the Maryland Society of Clinical and Lab Scientists at the Baltimore Science Fair and a gold medal in chemistry at the NAACP's ACT-SO (Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics) state competition. During the ACT-SO national finals in July, she collected the bronze medal in chemistry.

All things considered, this made the choice to attend Hopkins a no-brainer for Lonesome, who manages to balance working in the same laboratory she did in high school while still being an integral part of the women's basketball team at Hopkins and a "Baltimore Scholar" as well.

"The [Baltimore Scholars] program began my junior year, so from that point JHU sparked my interest. The research, basketball and [Hopkins's] proximity made it an obvious choice." As far

My Friday morning at swim practice

By MARY DOMAN
Sports Editor

Iap. After a short talk and run-through of the practice schedule for the day, the men left to go lift weights while the girls warmed up. The pool was mostly silent as they did their first set, following instructions scribbled on a large whiteboard at one end of the pool.

After leaving the girls alone for warm-ups, Coach Kennedy walked back in. "These are warm-ups," he said. "First we gotta get their heart rates above 160."

If I were sharing a skinny swim lane with two other girls, pacing myself so we wouldn't collide, I can promise you my heart rate would be at 160 in no time. However, this is clearly not the case for the Hopkins swimmers. "One of the easiest parts of practice is the warm-up," freshman Mary Claire Kozlowski said. "They get your body ready to swim."

The girls then entered their individual sets, swimming their hardest. The atmosphere gradually changed; in between laps the swimmers discussed everything from baking cookies to interpretations of the white board's instructions (things like "50 DR 50s," or "1x500 loco").

Then the men came in. With the whole team in the pool, there were some lanes packed with up to six swimmers. Though there was a rhythm to the practice, as the back-and-forth repetitions provided, each lane had swimmers going at different speeds or doing different strokes. In the last lane, some of the men



FILE PHOTO

During Intersession, Hopkins swimmers dedicate about six hours a day to practice.

were working with elastic bands that increased resistance as they swam. Other injured swimmers used kickboards and flippers on their hands and feet. Overall, the "medley" adjective definitely fit the spirit of a swim practice.

I can't say attending a Hopkins swim practice was as thrilling as a soccer match's overtime or as entertaining as a fast-paced basketball game, but the swimmers promised me that the six-plus hours per day dedicated to their sport were, for the most part, worthwhile and not too boring.

"Coach and Allie change things up frequently and like surprising us to keep the team from getting bored and keep us on our toes," Kozlowski said.

This includes dry-land training, weight lifting and yoga. Though the women have mixed feelings about the weight room ("Swimmers are known to have big shoulders ... and lifting only makes them bigger!" junior Megan Zepp said), the benefits of their unique training techniques has become apparent in meets. "Yoga is really an advantage over other teams, if you do it right," Zepp said.

Another source of strength for a Hopkins swimmer is his or her teammates. According to Zepp, "there is no better part of practice than when we can all motivate

one another to swim fast and improve together."

"The team is great at cheering each other on and challenging each other because ultimately we want everyone to be faster, not just ourselves individually," Kozlowski said.

Finally, the team did their cool-down sets. As practice came to a close, I again thanked the coaching staff and team for letting me come to practice; and also for saving my life, because I probably would have drowned if I had tried to keep up with the swim team.

And as the clock struck 11 a.m., I grabbed my binder (slightly damp after a few far-reaching splashes) and headed back to my bed as the team headed back to the locker room. Only a few hours later, they would return to the pool for their second session of the day.

In their off time, the team usually heads to Fresh Food Café for a large post-practice meal and then relaxes before their next practice. It seems like this time together is just as important to the swimmers as practice time. "We're such a close group ... It's wonderful to talk and joke around, and then work hard together," Zepp said.

The team's hard work will pay off Saturday, when they travel to North Carolina to face Emory.



CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

VITAL STATISTICS

Year: Sophomore
Major: Chem. Engineering
Position: Guard

Hopkins Highlights:
Scored winning shot in last second of game against Dickinson.

Track holding on to first-place conference rankings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B12

the best of the season so far. I'm trying to get my times back down to where they were last year during track," Hogen said. Her time was also good enough for first in the Centennial Conference rankings this season.

Freshman Martina Dodd's 3:22.9 time in the 1,000 meter run led to a 13th-place finish. Senior Jacci Clauss led the Jays in the 3,000-meter run with a time of 11:12.54 and a 12th-place finish.

On the sprints side, Anita Mikilinen's time of 9.77 seconds in the 60-meter hurdles earned her the 9th-place spot. Her time also earned her the top spot in the Centennial Conference in the event.

The women's relay teams also held up well against the strong competition. The 4x400-meter relay team finished seventh, the 4x800-meter relay team finished 3rd, and the Distance Medley Relay team finished first. Currently, the Jays hold the top spot in the rankings in the conference in each of these events.

Junior Jordan Ireton made an impressive showing in her first middle distance event as she tacked on a 2:25 split in the lead off leg of the 4x800. "I was nervous going into my first 800 because the longest I had ever raced before was 500 meters a few weeks ago, and I was unsure how my body would react to that extra 300 meters," Ireton said.

"I was also really excited to

run it because it's always fun to run new races and see what you're capable of."

Ireton showed she didn't sacrifice her sprinting speed as she ran 61 seconds in her leg of the 4x400-meter relay. "The training is improving not only my physical strength to a higher degree but is also improving my mental strength. This is allowing me to attack my races more strategically."

"The team seems to have refocused after winter break," Hogen said. When asked about the remainder of the season, Rachel responded, "I think there will be a continuous improvement upon this meet for the team as a whole. I would really like to see the women's team finish in the top two at conferences. I would also like to work towards getting our DMR toward the NCAA qualifying time."

Ireton aims straight for the top for the women's team.

"My goal is that the team can continue working hard and win the conference championship, something that we've never done before. It is a goal that requires a significant amount of work day in and day out, and I expect that if we can motivate and challenge each other to do so we will accomplish that goal."

The season rolls on next Saturday as both the men's and women's teams are set to compete at the Frank Colden Invitational in Collegeville, Penn.

SPORTS



CONOR KEVIT/PHOTO EDITOR
Junior guard Colin Kamm hits a lay-up.

M. b-ball decimates Red Devils

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B12
have to be Farber-Miller, who was a force down by the blocks, posting his second career double-double, with 12 points and 10 rebounds. "We needed this one after coming off the loss to McDaniel. I think we really came together and played good team ball. Our defense really stepped up. We made them shoot low field goal and three point percentages. Then we were able to capitalize by converting on offense," Farber-Miller said in regards to the big win.

"We have been focusing on boxing out and limiting the offense to one shot. Positioning is important, but it's really a matter of how much you want to get the ball," he said. Clearly the Jays wanted the ball more, ripping down 37 boards to Dickinson's 32.

With the big win over Dickinson, the Blue Jays have won four out of their last five games. Come see them take on first-place Ursinus College on Saturday at the Goldfarb Gymnasium at 2 p.m. Expect the Jays to be fired up, having lost to the Bears earlier in the season 62-57.

Fencing sweeps five teams at home match

By KATIE MOODY
News-Letter Staff Writer

The men's fencing team (14-4) swept all five meets on Sunday, Jan. 27 when they skewered the competition in an all-day event. The Blue Jays earned checks in the "W" column over William & Mary (19-8), St. John's, Maryland, Virginia and Virginia Tech. Junior foil Ben Dorfman and sophomore epee James Pearse paved the road for Hopkins with 12 wins each. Despite the high level of confidence walking into the Goldfarb Gymnasium, the Jays knew that they had their work cut out for them, but they pulled together and sliced their way through the competition.

When asked about what was going through the team's minds before the meet, Dorfman gave his insight. "Every year we always look forward to our home meet because it's a chance for us to really shine," he said. "As meets go, it is usually one of our easier ones, and we went into the meet confident."

Confidence is something the Jays showed from the very start. They opened up the meet by facing William & Mary, and they took all three weapons right out of the shotgun. Senior Aaron Fernandes led the Sabre squad by winning all three of his bouts, and the Jays ultimately captured the Sabre 7-2. In the epee division, Pearse and junior Dane Schiro each won two bouts to lead Hopkins to a 6-3 win. And in the foil, junior David Ferguson, sophomore Ian McCue and Dorfman each posted 2-1.

The next match was against St. John's, and the Jays again swept all three weapons on the way to a 24-3 win. In the Sabre, the Blue Jays dominated, sweeping it 9-0; junior David Hill led the way, going 3-0. Ferguson and Dorfman each went 3-0 as Hopkins again won in the foil 6-3. Pearse, Schiro and sophomore Chris Mihalsky each added three under the "W" column in the epee.

Getting into a sweeping groove, Hopkins won all three weapons in a 24-3 win over Maryland. Pearse led the way again, winning all three of his bouts in the epee. The Jays won the sabre with a 9-0 score, with freshman Max Wieder and Fernandes winning all three of their bouts. In the foil, Dorfman and McCue each went 3-0 as Hopkins won 8-1.

Wieder adds his insight to the Hopkins hot streak this past weekend. "The team went into Sunday with the same strategy that we always do; we always go and hope to do our best," he said. "We had a good day Saturday [the day before] beating UNC for the second time in over 50 years and we used that as a good morale booster. I really wanted Hopkins to do well at home, because it was going to be our only home meet of the season."

The home game certainly carried on from Maryland and continued to go strong. Following the Maryland match, Hopkins impressed even more by picking up a 23-4 win over Virginia after yet another sweep of all three weapons. In the foil, freshman Nick Krywopusk and Dorfman swept all three of their bouts to lead JHU to an 8-1 win. Pearse once again won all three of his bouts in the epee, as the Jays were victorious; 7-2. Hopkins won the sabre by an 8-1 score, led by Wieder's three wins.

Hopkins finished the meet in an 18-9 win over Virginia Tech. The Jays won two of the three weapons: the epee and the foil, while the Hokies captured the sabre. In the epee, freshman Thomas Ronan and sophomore Harry Oppenheim each won two bouts as Hopkins prevailed 7-2. In the sabre, Hill, sophomore Nakul Tasker, Wieder and freshman Michael Fellows each took one bout in a 5-4 loss. Finally, in the foil against Virginia Tech, McCue and Krywopusk led the charge as each acquired all three of his bouts for a 7-2 Hopkins win.

The Blue Jays will return

to action this weekend at the Northwestern Open, fencing on Saturday, Feb. 2 and Sunday, Feb. 3 in Evanston, Ill. They hope to get even more strength going for when they head to Durham, N.C. the following weekend.

Dorfman and Wieder share a bit of the team's strategy and outlook on the Illinois trip, and it's clear that they have confidence in themselves and their teammates. "I believe that this sweep has put us into a winning frame of mind and has given us good momentum for the Northwestern Open," Wieder said. "I think this week's training will keep up the momentum and will allow us to roll into Northwestern with the same attitude as we did at home. I do not know who we are fencing at Northwestern, but I do know that there will be a large amount of good teams. I also believe that we are at a point now that we can rival those

teams and beat them and I have faith that we will."

Dorfman agreed with his teammate. "The Northwestern meet is one of our hardest of the season, with many tough schools such as Notre Dame, Stanford and the Air Force Academy. However, this team is the best I have ever known it to be, and we have been training especially hard this month, so we have high hopes," he said enthusiastically. "The thing that will really make the difference is if we can keep up the intensity of competition when we are practicing so we can be ready to face tougher opponents."

Making the difference is what the Blue Jays want, and Wieder adds to Dorfman's strategy of hard work and a winning attitude. "We have just focused on training hard, doing our best, having a good attitude and having fun."

Swimming teams ace the competition

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B12
her heels 13 seconds behind.

Winning big for the women at the meet were junior Megan Zepp, sophomore Caitlin Dennis and freshman Michele Palopoli, who each took first in two events. Zepp and Mary Claire Kozlowski, took the top two spots in the 200-meter freestyle. Following that dominating performance was Pakkala, who claimed first in the 100-meter back stroke, and Dennis, finishing first in the 100-meter breast stroke. Expanding their winning streak by yet another race was Palopoli, who won the 200-meter butterfly with a time of 2:12.55.

From there, it seemed as if the Jays had the meet on autopilot with swimmer after swimmer taking first in their events. Rooney once again emerged to dominate the 50 Freestyle while junior Kate Hansen took the 100-meter freestyle (55.53). Dennis came away with her second win in the 200-meter breast stroke with a time of 2:29.86, while Zepp won the 500-meter freestyle in 5:23.02. Rounding out the spree of wins was junior Val Neff-Rasmussen in the 100-meter butterfly. Her time of 1:02.54 was not only good enough to win, but it is her new personal best in the event.

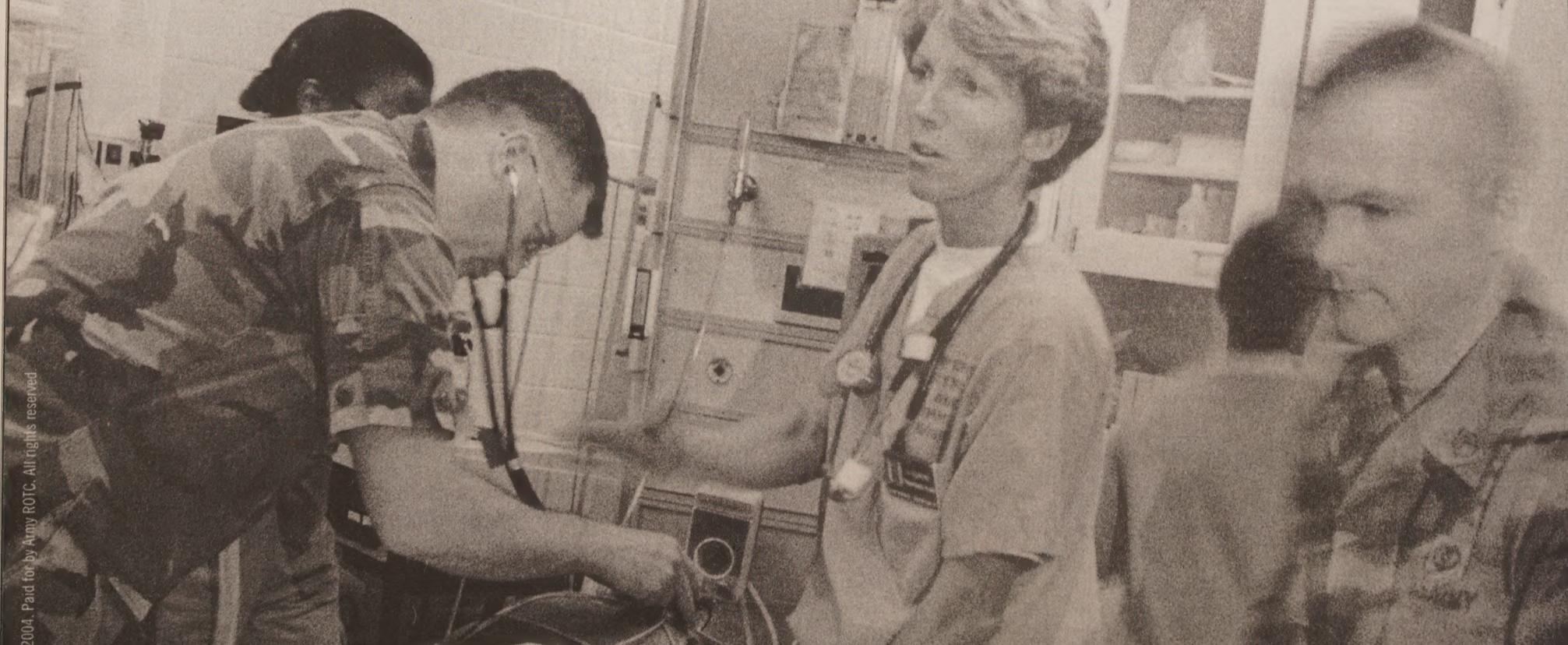
The men's win was their seventh straight, as they handed the Generals their first loss. They'll put that streak on the line next week in North Carolina, when they face off against the 15th-ranked Tar Heels and the fourth-ranked Emory Eagles. The seventh-ranked ranked women's team moves to 6-3. They'll look to improve against the stiff competition they'll face next week, as the women's teams at North Carolina and Emory are ranked 10th and second, respectively. No matter what rank each team possesses, both the men and women look to take the meet and press on to winning a national championship for Hopkins.



FILE PHOTO

Junior foil Ben Dorfman parries an advance from a competitor in Sunday's meet.

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SPORTS

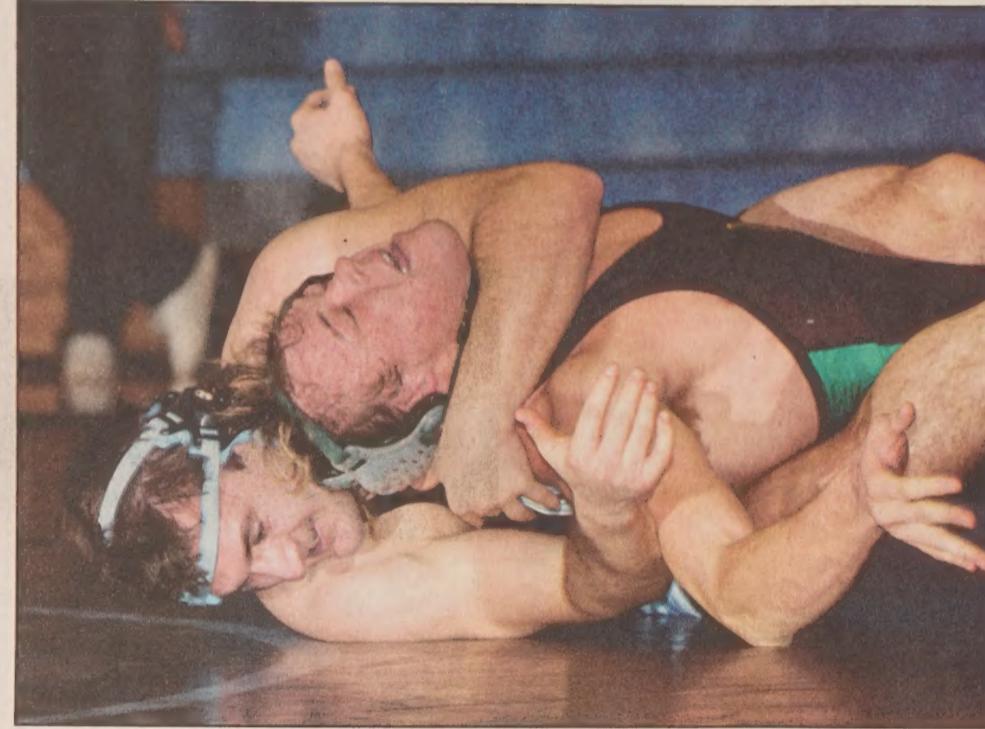
Wrestling sticks it to conference opponents

By DEMIAN KENDALL
Sports Editor

The Hopkins wrestling team, in a rare home match, had a grueling day last weekend. Hopkins faced off against three strong Centennial Conference opponents at Goldfarb Gymnasium, including reigning conference champions Ursinus, and the traditional powerhouses of Muhlenberg and Gettysburg. Hopkins went 2-1 on the day, suffering a devastating loss in the opening match against Ursinus by a score of 29-11, coming back to defeat Muhlenberg 29-13, and finishing off the day with a demolition of Gettysburg by a score of 37-9. The match against Muhlenberg was especially memorable, as it was the first time Hopkins has defeated the Mules in five years.

In the opening match against Ursinus, the Blue Jays only managed to tally three individual wins. Ursinus opened the match strong, scoring a technical fall against freshman 125-pounder Akshay Paintal and a fall against freshman 133-pounder Xavier Mohammed. It was up to freshman 141-pounder Ben Kauffman to erase the losing streak and gather some momentum for his team.

Kauffman went into the match with sheer intensity, completely dominating Ursinus' James Bloom to score a 12-2 major decision. "Going into the Ursinus match, I was pretty amped up to wrestle against conference opponents for the first time," Kauffman said. "After losing the first two weight classes, I knew I needed to go out there with some energy and get us on the scoreboard. I kept applying pressure to my opponent when



Senior 184-pounder Eric Fishel rips a painful crossface against his opponent. Fishel went 3-0 in last Saturday's competition.

we were neutral leading to a couple takedowns. Also, I was able to turn him and put him on his back almost getting the pin."

Although Kauffman's win was an emotional rallying point for the team, the talent of the Ursinus team proved too much for the Jays. Ursinus won the next four matches, bringing the team score to 26-4, and making it impossible for a Hopkins comeback. Senior Eric Fishel and junior Tyler Schmidt both secured victories against Ursinus, but it was too late.

However, the loss against Ur-

sinus only fueled the team's desire to prove themselves in the conference. Hopkins won six of 10 matches against the Mules to secure a 29-13 victory, a monumental achievement for the organization. "[The Muhlenberg match] was a big win for us," Schmidt said. "They're a very good team this year. They've beaten us in points in some of the tournaments we've competed with them earlier in the season, so that shows we've been improving over the season. I think since we've wrestled a lot of really good, highly ranked teams,

our record doesn't show how good we truly are."

Schmidt's match was possibly the most exciting of the competition. Early in the match, he suffered an injury which eventually required five stitches. The match was stopped on several occasions for blood time, but Schmidt fought through with a narrow 1-0 win.

Rallying from the Muhlenberg victory, Hopkins completely decimated the forfeit-riddled Gettysburg Bullets, winning seven of the 10 matches to bring the final score to 37-9. With two conference wins under their belt, the Jays have proven to be a dominant force in the Centennial Conference.

Speaking of the team's potential in the upcoming Conference Championships, senior team captain Eric Fishel said,

CONTINUED ON PAGE B10

rimmed out.

The Jays would not let their next game be as close as the last one. In fact, it wasn't even remotely close, as Hopkins manhandled the Dickinson Red Devils 74-53 in a game where every member of the team saw some playing time. From the floor, Hopkins was on fire, shooting 48.1 percent for the game and a lights-out 57.7 percent in the second half. Four Blue Jays finished with 10 or more points. Tied at 30 a piece early in the second half, Hopkins went on a dominating 19-2 run and never looked back, accented by a monstrous slam by sophomore forward Andrew Farber-Miller.

Polster led the way with 16 points, including four three-pointers. "In the second half, we unleashed our wetness attack on the Red Devils' defense. We had great energy and intensity that they couldn't match and in turn we were extremely wet from the floor," Polster said after the game.

"Once we get the Blue Jay train running, there aren't many teams that can stop us. We are solid from the engine to the caboose, and with Kamm as our conductor, we run without brakes," he said. The "caboose" would

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M. Basketball decimates Red Devils

Hopkins avenged a previous loss to the McDaniel team by running the floor against Dickinson

By MICHAEL PORAMBO
For The News-Letter

The Hopkins men's basketball team (10-7, 6-4) faced two formidable foes last week in Centennial Conference action, playing McDaniel College (12-5, 7-3) last Wednesday and Dickinson College (8-8, 4-6) on Saturday.

Despite a late surge in the last five minutes of the second half, the Jays came up short versus McDaniel, losing 59-56. McDaniel started off hot, up 14-4 early in the first half, but the Jays came firing right back with an 18-to-3 run during which the Green Terror were held scoreless from the floor, only connecting on three free throws. Sophomore guard Pat O'Connell connected on the jumper which gave the Jays the lead 18-17.

O'Connell finished with 15 points, eight rebounds, and three steals, all game-highs. Junior point guards Scott Weisenfeld and Collin Kamm repeatedly and successfully drove the lane, both making open lay-ups and dishing out to their teammates for open shots. Weisenfeld finished with 12 points and five assists, shooting 100 percent from both the field (4-4) and the free throw line (4-4); Kamm contributed six points. Hopkins was up 28-24 at halftime.

McDaniel came out strong again, retaking the lead 31-30 with 15:43 remaining. The game remained very close the rest of the half, but the Blue Jays were unable



CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Junior guard Scott Weisenfeld drives the ball upcourt in Saturday's game.

throw line. Down by three with 12 seconds remaining, the Jays had a chance, but the three-point shot of senior guard Doug Polster

DID YOU KNOW?

On Media Day, a Hispanic reporter called out to New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady this week wearing a wedding gown. She then asked Brady if he would marry her. Brady replied, "There's quite a few Mrs. Bradys out there." Catching himself afterward, he said, "I'm a one-woman man."

CALENDAR

SATURDAY

- M. Basketball vs. Ursinus 2 p.m.
- W. Basketball vs. Ursinus 4 p.m.
- Wrestling vs. Wash. & Lee 7:30 p.m.

Track teams show a solid effort at Fairfax

By MIKE YUAN
News-Letter Staff Writer

This past weekend, the men's and women's track and field teams competed at the Patriot Games hosted by George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. The men finished sixth and the women finished eighth in a field which included several Division I teams.

"My performance at George Mason was one of my proudest moments."

— SENIOR TRISTAN THOMAS

spectively. Jampol's time earned him the ninth-place spot in the final standings. Freshman Brandon Hahn also finished ninth in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:03.53.

Junior Geoff Nunn's 9:02.93 earned him ninth place in the 3,000-meter run. Nunn's time was only a little more than two seconds off the ECAC qualifying standard.

"I think I'll be able to qualify for ECAC's by the end of the season," Nunn said, "but I would eventually like to run the 5,000-meter run, as the

training I'm currently doing is more geared toward that event." Sophomore David Sigmon and junior Dan Pike were the next two Hopkins runners to cross the line in the event, finishing with times of 9:17.11 and 9:22.74 respectively.

The relay teams fared well with a fourth-place finish in the 4x400, and second place in both the 4x800 and the distance medley relay. Sophomore Nate Sotuyo led both the 4x800 and DMR relay teams with a 1:59 split in the 800-meter leg of each relay. The 4x800 team was able to qualify for ECACs with their time.

In field events, Peter Li's throw of 14.25 meters in the shot put was good for fourth place and second overall in the Centennial Conference this season.

On the women's side, junior Rachel Hogen's sixth-place finish in the mile with a time of 5:20.36 led the Jays. "I thought my performance this past weekend was

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Swimming teams blow past the competition

By MIKE SUMMER
News-Letter Staff Writer

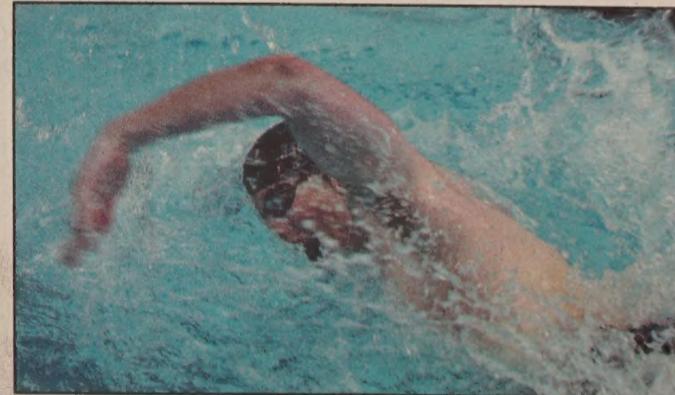
This past weekend, the men's and women's swim teams faced off against Washington and Lee.

Despite the strength of the opposing teams, the Jays dominated the competition, with the men winning 153-109 and the women almost matching their mark, soundly defeating the W&L women's team 151-105.

Leading the Jays to victory for the men were senior Matt Fedderly, junior Colin Kleinguetl and sophomore John Thomas, each winning two events. Fedderly won the 100-meter breaststroke (58.25) and the 200-meter breaststroke (2:12.20), and his wins set up sweeps in both events with Jay swimmers taking the top three places.

The meet opened with the 200-meter medley, with the team of Thomas, Fedderly and sophomores Spiros Moisiades and Neil Mahoney taking the event with

a time of 1:35.38. Kleinguetl was next, winning the 1,650-meter freestyle with a time of 16:40.68, his fastest time of the season. He also was the winner in the 200-



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

meter butterfly (1:57.21) while teammate John Thomas won the 100-meter back stroke (50.98) and the 200-meter back stroke (1:56.33). Moisiades was also an individual winner, taking the win in the 100-meter butterfly with a time of 52.86, edging out teammate Bob Sershon by milliseconds (52.91).

Setting personal records that day was senior Brad Test. Test set a personal record during the 200-meter freestyle. His time of 1:43.14 was his fastest time ever

in the event during his four-year career at Hopkins.

In the end, it was the Jays that would end Washington and Lee's nine-meet winning streak, in dominating fashion. The Jays took 10 of 14 events, leaving the Generals little hope of catching them.

As the men proved their valor, the women's swim team showed that they were just as strong a force. The women's team would also soundly defeat their opponents from Washington & Lee by a commanding score of 151-105, winning 11 of 14 events.

In the first event, the 200-meter medley, senior Erica Pakkala, junior Jackie Rooney and sophomores Caitlin Dennis and Lisa Qu won the event, posting an impressive time of 1:55.31. Freshman Michele Palopoli immediately followed with a win in the 1,650-meter freestyle with a time of 18:18.24, with Qu on

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INSIDE

Fencing: Jays win five straight

This is possibly the best season yet for the young Blue Jays fencing team. Led by junior foil Ben Dorfman, the Jays won all five matches in their most recent event. Page B11

Athlete of the Week: Britni Lonesome

Sophomore Britni Lonesome plays guard for the Lady Blue Jays basketball team. Our staff writer Eric Goodman gives you the scoop on Britni on and off the court. Page B11

Practice Makes Perfect: The Swim Team

Sports editor Mary Doman got up close and personal with the swim coach and the team, tagging along for an early morning intersession practice. Here's what she saw. Page B11